

Mom... Guess What!

NEWS PAPER

Issue #22

FOR WOMEN AND MEN OF THE GAY COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS IN THE CAPITAL AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

August, 1980

Rights Director Quits Under Protest — Blames Gays for Ouster.

Claudel Kennix, executive director of the Sacramento Human Rights Commission, quit under protest last month blaming the gay commissioners for his ouster.

After several hearings conducted over several months, the Personnel Committee of the Human Rights Commission recommended to the full Commission that it ask for Kennix resignation. The position is considered a political appointment since the director serves "at the pleasure" of the Commission. At its May meeting, the Commission voted to ask for his resignation or be fired.

The Commission gave no official reason for their action; however, many commissioners joined with other community leaders and elected officials who felt it was time for a change.

Reports of misappropriation of funds, mental abuse and intimidation of staff, low morale among employees and basic incompetence were items of great concern to individual commission members. In addition the vast majority (11 of 15) of the commissioners have just recently been appointed to the Commission and felt that as a new Commission it should have a new director.

At first Kennix refused to resign as instructed, but indicated he would resign at the end of the year. But when newspaper reports indicated certain misappropriations, he resigned within days after the allegations became public.

Kennix admitted that he used funds of the commission to pay for phone calls to his family in the Bay Area which amount to over \$300 a year. Pam Slater, reporter for the *Sacramento Bee*, quoted Kennix as saying, "I'm not trying to deny," making the calls, "the whole staff makes toll calls." However no one else on staff admitted making any personal long distance calls. To Lawrence Irby of the *Sacramento Union*, Kennix responded that "the Commission has no policy on phone calls." In response to the comment that the Commission doesn't have such a policy, one commissioner said, "Perhaps. But there are laws against using public funds for personal use. I would think that he would have a moral sense, if nothing else, not to use government funds for his personal use."

Kennix also acknowledged to the *Bee* reporter but denied to the *Union* reporter being late in paying commission bills, thus in some cases forcing the commission to pay extra for his tardiness. Pacific Telephone threatened on several occasions to cut off service if the bill was not paid.

At least one former employee reported that she was forced to type a master thesis for Kennix on commission time. Several employees admitted that Kennix was only in the office 2 or 3 days a week, yet was paid for a full week's work. Employees reported Kennix allowing some staff personal commission time to do church work.

On at least one occasion Kennix authorized a bill to be paid by the Commission without first informing the Commission. In this particular case it is reported that he requested an appropriation of about \$1000 to be paid to an attorney to settle a lawsuit that most commissioners knew nothing about.

But in spite of these blatant charges, Kennix in announcing his resignation blamed his ouster on a "gay power play."

Black Commissioner Winston Brooks also felt that the gay commissioners were being discriminatory against Kennix because of his race and sexual preference. "If he were white and gay there would be no problem," Brooks reported to Pam Slater, *Bee* reporter. However, in a private conversation, Brooks admitted that he felt that Kennix was incompetent.

A former Commissioner joined Brooks in the belief that the gay commissioners only wanted Kennix out in order to hire a gay replacement. Both gay commissioners denied that race or sexual preference had anything to do with seeking Kennix resignation.

"We're only two out of 15 commissioners, yet it was the majority of the commission which asked for his resignation," reported Commissioner Linda Birner. "Further we had no one in mind for replacement—gay or straight."

Kennix did report to the *Bee* that there are no gay problems in Sacramento in spite of the fact at a recent Commission meeting over 15 gay community leaders addressed the commission with concerns.

Gary Miller, a gay man who serves as Vice-Chair of the Commission, felt that Kennix was either ignorant or naive concerning the statement of Kennix that there does not exist any problems for gays or lesbians in Sacramento. Miller agreed with Kennix that gay issues should not be the #1 concern of the commission "however it should be a concern."

Kennix charged, "There is a bigger ball game and I think this group (gays) has caused a problem for the commission... The commission does not have the strength or the will..." to handle its gay members. Kennix did not elaborate as to what the problems were that the gays were causing.

Even Ben Horn, Chair of the Commission, considered Kennix accusations as inflammatory.

Gary Miller, in responding to the charges of racism, said he resented the remarks by Brooks and Kennix. "There were a number of black community leaders who felt that Kennix should step down as there were gay community leaders who felt that he shouldn't. Neither Brooks nor Kennix know of my history or present circumstances concerning black rights."

"In my teens I actively supported civil rights laws which caused a great deal of anxiety for my parents who were not supportive. In fact when I mentioned that love sometimes crosses racial lines and that we should support inter-racial couples, my parents almost disowned me. If I were a racist as they claim, would I have taken a job that is black owned and operated and where the majority of workers are black? Contrary to Kennix, my boss (also a black man) is quite competent in his field."

Both gay commissioners have been supportive of other minority issues on the commission. In fact the vast majority of issues which come before the commission are not gay related at all.

Several days after Kennix resigned as director of the Commission, he landed a job as a consultant for the State Office of Economic Opportunity. The Commission has asked Manuel Garcia to serve as Acting Director until a new Director is hired. Garcia, who lives with his wife Maggie, will be responsible for getting a budget prepared for city and county officials—a budget which is long overdue.

Sacramento Gay Community Gears Up to Help Gay Cuban Refugees

In the last issue of MGW there was an appeal from Rev. Troy Perry of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches calling for the Gay community across the country to open its hearts and homes to Gay Cuban refugees. This appeal is now being presented to the Sacramento Gay community.

Of the 116,000 Cubans who have come to this country since the boat life began, many are Lesbians and Gay men. Also, many of the Gay people did not leave Cuba of their own free will, they were booted out. The horror stories which many of these people tell are almost unbelievable. In a copywritten story in the 11 July 1980 issue of the *San Francisco Sentinel*, reporter Larry Bush describes how many people were rounded up and herded to the boats at Bayonet

point. Some had electric cattle prods used on them. Others were whipped with barbed wire. Some were forced to leave lovers behind.

Reporter Bush quoted one person as saying, "We need help. We want to work, we want to study, we want to be useful people. We ask you, in the name of God, to help us. We will live up to whatever is asked of us." Sacramento Metropolitan Community Church is spearheading an effort to find sponsors for some of the refugees. Anyone interested in being a sponsor should contact Jerry Sloan by calling the church office at 451-5552. A sponsor questionnaire and additional information will be sent. Donations are desperately needed. MCC is not recognized by the government as an approved refugee help agency so they will not receive any financial help from the government for their efforts. Make checks out to the UFMCC Cuban Refugee Fund and mail them to MCC, P.O. Box 5282, Sacramento CA 95817. All donations are tax deductible. We hope to raise at least \$1,000 from Sacramento.

A Successful Night at the Harness Races

by Warren Hull



Race 3 the MGW Race, from left to right - handler, Andy's Ubet, handler, driver, our Photographer; Linda Blue, Writer; Greg Gorges, Publisher; Linda D. Birner, Business Manager; Frank Lawler, Writer; Norv Giles.

Saturday, July 19 was a sizzling Sacramento summer night but the enthusiastic crowds in the grandstand at the Golden Bear raceway hardly seemed to notice the heat. The occasion was the second annual Gay night at the Harness races, and the Turf Club at Cal-Expo was sold out. After a juicy prime rib dinner and chocolate mousse dessert there were ten trotter races (including six exactas) to enjoy. For many it was their first exposure to the Harness races. The handicappers helped explain the odds in the morning line, while the less scientific tried to pick a winning horse by the sound of its name—Hustlin Dude, Wonder Beau, Indecisive. The third race, an exacta honoring *Mom... Guess What!* was won by Andy's Uket. The well-dressed crowd found ample time to socialize and there was a nice mix of men and women. Many expressed the opinion that it was nice to participate in an event where you could be yourself where normally you couldn't. Proceeds from the events will go to benefit *Mom... Guess What!*

Pride Foundation Opens Alcoholism Service

Michael Brennan announces the opening of a new alcoholism counseling service for lesbians and gay men under the auspices of the Pride Foundation. Eighteenth Street Services will provide individual and group counseling for gay men and lesbians experiencing problems with alcohol and other drugs. Counseling will also be available for those persons affected by someone else's alcohol and drug use.

In a short time they hope to visit with other alcohol and drug agencies in the area and with workers in the mental health field. As part of their prevention and education program, they are available to make presentations to agencies, professionals, and community organizations.

They will be sending out a more complete description of our services in the near future. If you have questions about the program now or would like to inquire about referral procedures, call at 863-8111.

Gay Business People Invited to Fife's Weekend

The Golden Gate Business Association of San Francisco, in conjunction with the Business and Professional Association of Los Angeles, invites all interested gay business people to their Third Annual Weekend in the Country, to be held August 22-24 at Fife's Resort, Guerneville, California, in the heart of the Russian River country. The invitation is being extended to business groups in Sacramento, San Jose (South Bay), and San Diego, as well as Los Angeles and San Francisco.

An informal panel program will be presented

Gay and Lesbian Bureaucrats Sponsor Wine & Cheese Social

The Advocates for Gay and Lesbian State Employees is sponsoring a wine and cheese social, Saturday, August 16, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Earhart's Cafe (16th Street between S and T Streets).

AGLSE is the only organized group of gay and lesbian government workers in the nation. The group has actively lobbied and advised the Governor's Office, the State Personnel Board and the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties on projects affecting gay and lesbian persons in state employment.

The wine and cheese social marks AGLSE's second year together. The event will provide an opportunity for the community to meet the group and celebrate its accomplishments. This social will be open to all who wish to find out about the gay and lesbian state employee group. Potential new members are encouraged to attend...

at Fife's on Saturday morning at 11 a.m., titled "Stocks, Bonds, Options, Commodities: Investment Strategies in an Uncertain Economy." The panel will consist of L. Donald Fixler, economist and financial consultant; Michael Maier of Dean Witter & Co., San Francisco; Philip Pitchford of Dean Witter & Co., Los Angeles; and Tom White of Thomas F. White & Co., Inc., and will be moderated by C.P.A. Arthur Lazere, president of the GGBA. Reservations should be made directly with Fife's (minimum two nights) and interested persons should identify themselves as participating in the GGBA weekend. Fife's address is: 16467 River Road (Highway 116), Guerneville, California 95446.

Jog-Walk-Bike A-Thon To Be Held

What's happening with the ERA? Local supporters are raising money to put strong proponents of the amendment into office all across the country. It's happening right here in Sacramento, too, this Sunday, August 24. Sacramento National Organization for Women, Women Lawyers, National Women's Political Caucus, the Sacramento Men's Collective, American Association of University Women, Country Club Centre Business and Professional Women's Club, Capitol District BPWC, and Women in Politics have joined forces to put on the second annual JOG-WALK-BIKE A-THON FOR EQUALITY, scheduled to get underway at 8:30 a.m. at the circle drive in front of the State Library at 9th and Capitol.

Registration is \$5.00 the day of the event, \$4.00 in advance or free with pledges per kilometer. Call 443-3470 to request information or entry forms.

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From the Inside Out

Guest Editorial

From River City Business Association
President's Rally Speech at
Second Annual Sacramento Gay Freedom Day
Parade — "Gay'n' Progress"
June 22, 1980

Many of us have often been seen at some of the Best Bars, Baths, Bushes, Bathrooms and Bookstores. Even our faces are familiar.

We are bankers and veterinarians, lawyers and carpenters; we work for the phone company and in furniture stores; we are distinguished faculty members and civil servants; we are members of the clergy; we are insurance brokers, travel agents, medical technicians and retail buyers. We are seen regularly on television. Nearly all of us are silent!

We are silent at our jobs about our lifestyles because we think it is easier to live a lie in quiet desperation. If asked, we deny our lifestyle with a bit of oral deception and verbal terpsichory. When you contract the words 'lie' and 'deny' you come out with the word 'die' and each day that you lie and deny to those around you, you die a bit. When I walk into your offices or you walk into my place of business and you do not speak to me, you die a bit, and so do I. And,

little by little, as the years of deception accumulate, worry lines develop around our eyes. Some of us have "crow's feet" by the time we are 30; by 40 we have mastodon tracks that only low red lights will hide.

If you are over 30 and not out to your family and colleagues at work, you are doing everyone a disservice. If you are over 40 and not out to everybody, you deserve to be locked in your closet. By then, everyone either knows or it does not matter to anyone. If we are going to be true to ourselves and to those around us, it is altogether essential that we speak up about our lifestyle. There is no one to whom we owe so much as we owe to ourselves.

In Miami, in Wichita, in Eugene, Davis and San Jose we are hearing a resounding **NO** from the ballot box. In Davis, the No's said there were not enough documented cases of discrimination, to which my answer is: personal intimidation, public embarrassment and time and money won't allow it. We have to change that!

We see documentaries on the major networks that deal with gay power, politics and social pastimes. So long as gay people in the media remain silent and so long as non-gay people in

the media are in positions to tell our story, we shall have to tolerate their skewed viewpoint. It is time to climb out of our Mark V's and stop looking at life through romboid opera windows. We can no longer seek validation from anyone but ourselves.

I cannot count the times I have been accosted in one or another of our social gathering places in Sacramento to be told that what I am saying needs to be said. My answer is always: "If it needs to be said, why aren't you saying it? It isn't enough for you to be standing in the wings to preserve your anonymity when lobbyists and legislators, business association presidents and publishers, gay clergy and authors stand on the cutting edge." It gets very tiring and trying to be one of only a handful speaking out when I see so much energy-gone-begging on any given night in our bars. If you don't like the status quo, then you had best get ready for an era of real repression, because that is where we are heading. Get out of the wings and into the mainstream. Examine your beliefs and then stand up for them.

There are very few positive role models for gay men and women to follow until we create

our own. We need to use every opportunity at hand to show non-gay people that we are success-oriented, law-abiding, tax-paying citizens. We are no longer willing to claim victimization but rather we intend to claim victory which is rightfully ours. We will create our own validation in terms that enhance us and within the American system which supports us.

To the Born-Again Christians I say: We practice what you preach and stand before you as proof positive that the Golden Rule works. To the breeders of our nation I say: We thank you for having created us. To the homophobic politicians and law enforcement officers I say: We will continue in our efforts to hold you accountable and responsive to us; if you aren't, we will vote you out of office!

And to men and women everywhere I say: I am living proof that it is O.K. to be Gay. I am a sensuous, well-adjusted, active homosexual and I like me and love all of you. It is as simple as that.

—Nory Giles

Mom... Guess What!

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Mom's Volunteers

As most of our readers are probably aware, **Mom... Guess What!** is a non-profit paper run totally by volunteers. They sacrifice a certain amount of their free time each month to help bring members of the gay community and friends an informative and entertaining newspaper. The only pay these people receive is the satisfaction of knowing that they contributed to a worthwhile project that is respected throughout Northern California by both straight and gay people alike.

Each month we print an ad in the Classified section of this paper inviting people to donate some of their effort and skill toward helping put out this paper. As a result, our volunteer lists are sizable. It is very gratifying to see the large number of people who show an interest in their community. Despite the number of volunteers we already have, there is always a need for more. Even if one can only give a little time each month, there is always something that needs to be done. Newspaper production involves a lot of

creativity, as well as a lot of just plain hard, tedious work.

Keeping the volunteer lists in order requires constant up-dating and revising. Toward this end, many who have shown an interest toward helping in the past have been mailed Contributor Forms to fill out and return. If you have received one of these forms and still want to help, but have not returned it, please do so at your earliest convenience. These forms are the only means we have to tell what skills an individual has and what hours he/she can help.

One problem we have with many of those who already have forms with us is keeping the addresses and phone numbers up to date. If you think your Contributor Form is not current, please call us at 456-5858 and give us the correct information. Remember, we cannot put you to work if we cannot contact you.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you who have given so freely of your time to help keep **MGW** going. Your work is greatly appreciated.

MGW Seeks Intern, CSUS Credit Available

MOM... GUESS WHAT! is looking for a CSUS student with a major in a liberal arts field to serve as an editorial intern in the Fall semester of 1980.

The intern will work with the editorial department of the newspaper, participating in story development and assignment, research and writing, copy editing, rewriting, and proofreading. He or she need not be an English or Journalism major, but must have strong writing skills, a sure command of English grammar, and a sense of style. He or she will also need the flexibility to cope with the changeable demands of newspaper production, must be dependable, and must be comfortable with the gay and lesbian communities.

The **MOM... GUESS WHAT!** editorial internship will be arranged through the new Liberal Arts Internship pro-

gram at Cal State University, Sacramento, being developed and coordinated by Professor Charles Moore of the English Department. This program is intended to offer Liberal Arts majors the same sorts of opportunities for work experience in the community that are now available to majors in other fields such as business, science, and political science.

Students interested in the **MOM... GUESS WHAT!** editorial internship should contact **MGW**, 456-5858 or P.O. Box 8170, Sacramento 95818. Businesses interested in sponsoring interns themselves may contact Professor Charles Moore, Department of English, California State University, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819.

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UNDER THE DOME



Gay Political Clout

At a crowded press conference held on June 24 in Washington, D.C., representatives of the gay and lesbian community from around the country proclaimed victory as they distributed copies of the gay rights plank adopted by the Democratic Platform Committee early that morning.

President Carter's Director of Issues, Martin Franks, and feminist leader Gloria Steinem, representing the Kennedy campaign, also participated in order to underscore the broad base of support finally achieved after years of struggle. As Issues Director Franks stated, it was a victory "long overdue."

Representing the gay and lesbian community were six of the 158 voting members of the Platform Committee. Elected in their home states, the geographic diversity of the six helped to demonstrate the growing breadth of gay clout across America. The six are: Bill Kraus of San Francisco; Janna Zumburum of Austin, TX; Tim Mayhew of Seattle; Sheldon Andelson of Los Angeles; Ginny Apuzzo of New York; and, Gary Grefenstet of Minneapolis. Tom Bastow and Mary Spottswood Pou, Co-Directors of the National Convention Project, chaired the session.

The victory statement concluded months of coordinated efforts at the state and national levels and weeks of intense lobbying during

Platform Committee meetings in Washington, D.C. Following earlier correspondence and phone conversations, several gay leaders met with the issues directors of both the Carter and Kennedy campaigns on June 11. Two days later, Lucia Valeska, Co-Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, and Congressman Martin Sabo of Minnesota presented testimony before the full Platform Committee.

As further evidence of gay political clout, the current count of gay and lesbian delegates and alternates to the Democratic Convention in New York indicates that more than 70 members will participate in the Gay Caucus. "That is more than the delegations from 16 states and is roughly equivalent to the Arizona delegation," Bastow and Pou stated.

The text of the gay rights plank, as contained in the majority report of the Democratic Platform Committee, reads as follows:

"—We must affirm the dignity of all people and the right of each individual to have equal access to and participation in the institutions and services of our society, including actions to protect all groups from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex or sexual orientation. This includes specifically the right of foreign citizens to enter into this country. Appropriate legislative and administrative actions to achieve these goals should be undertaken."

Human Rights: Republicans Say "No" Democrats "Yes"

Political analysis by Gary Miller

The 1980 presidential election continued this past month as the two major political parties began forming their platforms and in the case of the Republicans also deciding on their nominees.

It was in 1936 when the Republican Party became the first major political party to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Republicans that year nominated Alf Landon as their presidential candidate who was pro-ERA. After more than 40 years of consistent support for the ERA in their platforms and by their candidates, Landon's daughter, Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) (also pro-ERA) was a keynote speaker at the 1980 Republican Convention which nominated an anti-ERA candidate with a platform in which the support for ERA had been dropped.

The Republican platform urges "equal rights for women" but gives their blessing to anti-ERA supporters as well as pro-ERA advocates. The 1980 Republican platform also gives support to a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortions; and mandates that all judges appointed must have a "pro-life" philosophy.

Perhaps the views of Nancy Reagan are typical of the delegates at the convention. She felt that abortion was murder, but in the same breath she answered another question by saying that she supports capital punishment.

In spite of the fact that most polls show that the majority of Americans, the majority of Republicans and even the majority of Reagan supporters not only support ERA but also support the rights of women to choose concerning abortion, the platform was adopted with hardly a ripple of opposition.

At least one Republican California woman active in her party as a member of the state governing board has resigned her post in protest and now plans to support John Anderson for president. Betty Ford was quoted as saying that it looks like 1964 all over again, referring to the conservative Goldwater platform and convention.

Mary Crisp, a pro-ERA woman, was forced to resign as Chair of the National Republican Party. She was replaced by a woman who is "neutral" on ERA. Crisp said that the Republican Party is inflicted with an "internal sickness."

The Republicans had fewer women delegates at their 1980 convention than they had in 1976 or 1972. At the 1980 convention only about 30% of the delegates to the convention were women compared to about 50% of the delegates who will be attending the Democratic Convention this month. In addition a huge number of the delegates at the 1980 Republican Convention were members of the Moral Majority, the so-called Christian organization which opposes the right to choose concerning abortion as well as ERA and gay rights.

James Kilpatrick, not known as a liberal, stated that he felt that the Republican Party "has been taken over by wild-eyed coalition of hawks, homebodies, Neanderthals, reactionaries, Jesus freaks and Bible thumpers. The New Right and the Moral Majority... are firmly in charge" of the Republican Party.

Reagan did meet with pro-ERA delegates during the convention. He emphasized his "strong belief in equal rights" and would consider appointing a woman to the U.S. Supreme Court. One Sacramento political feminist, who is knowledgeable about Reagan, wondered what kind of woman he would appoint and why he hadn't ever appointed a woman to the California Supreme Court. "He'll probably consider a woman to the highest court about as long as he considered a woman to join him on the ticket—perhaps as long as 60 seconds."

Political columnist Jack Anderson provided new insights into Reagan's real feelings about women. Reagan believes that women should be "seen and supportive of their husbands", according to one of his former girlfriends. This same friend was quoted as saying, "He likes to be surrounded by beautiful intelligent women. They just better not try to upstage him."

Anderson quotes Hollywood sources who stated that the real reason that Reagan divorced Jane Wyman was that her career as an actress was progressing better than his. Whereas Nancy Davis was no serious threat to his career as an actor. "She relishes her role as the supportive wife who never steals the spotlight," revealed one of Anderson's sources.

There was some hope, though not very substantial, that because of the strong feelings of pro-ERA delegates that they were left out of the platform, perhaps Reagan would try to mend fences by appointing a woman such as Sen. Kassebaum or former Ambassador Anne Armstrong to the ticket. Reagan had indicated that he would consider both women along with a number of men. But he decided to choose a man and was really only considering men as major candidates for that position.

In announcing his choice for vice-president, Ronald Reagan, who is being supported by the National Right to Life Association, stated that George Bush "enthusiastically endorses the entire Republican platform". Later Bush confirmed that statement.

Bush had indicated previously his support for ERA (though he opposed the extension) and opposition to a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortions. So it is not really clear where Bush stands now on these issues, except he did indicate after he was nominated that he opposed abortion and did not feel that these women's issues would be major issues in the campaign.

The Republicans had one known gay delegate, Timothy Drake of Illinois, who was elected as an Anderson delegate. Drake felt that Reagan "has the potential to generate good will in the gay

community." Drake pointed out that the Republican platform omits a pledge of non-discrimination against gays but that such an omission is not consistent with Reagan's views. "He is not for gay rights, but he is opposed" to discrimination against gays.

However, unless Drake receives better assurances from Reagan on gay issues, Drake said he might consider voting for Anderson in the fall.

Reagan had fired at least one gay person in his administration while he served as governor. However, Reagan was very helpful in the No on 6 campaign of 1978.

George Bush stated during the primary his views on gay rights:

"I believe that I do not favor the codification of gay rights in law and yet I do not favor harassment of an individual for that basis or anything of that nature... I just don't want to see our society undermined by codifying that as normal—I just don't accept it as that... I don't think homosexuality is normal..."

The TV networks were quite obvious in their sexism by televising the full speeches of men like John Connally and Henry Kissinger, but did not televise in full the speeches of Sen. Kassebaum or Anne Armstrong. In addition all three networks completely ignored the highest ranking Republican woman in Reagan's home state, Carol Hallett—Assembly Minority Leader, when she addressed the convention.

Democrats

On the other side, the Democratic Party platform committee met last month in preparation of their convention this month. The Democratic Party, through its platform, continues its long standing support for the Equal Rights Amendment. And in addition, the Democratic Party became the first major political party to give its support to gay rights.

The Democratic platform contains support for the boycott of states which have not ratified the ERA. It supports the U.S. Supreme Court decision giving women the right to choose concerning abortion; further, it opposes a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion. However, the question of government funded abortions may not be decided until the convention in New York City.

For the first time within either major political party, the Democrats will contain in their platform a gay rights plank which opposes discrimination against gays. It includes a statement that the Party supports changes in the immigration laws which now prohibit gays from even visiting this country.

The plank is not as strong on gay rights as it would have been if the Kennedy forces were in control, but with Carter's lukewarm support, gay men and lesbians will now be included in the platform. The gay plank reads:

"We must affirm the dignity of all people and the right of each individual to have equal access to and participation in the institutions and services of our society, including actions to protect all groups from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex or sexual orientation. This includes specifically the right of foreign citizens to enter into this country. Appropriate legislative and administrative actions to achieve these goals should be undertaken."

The vote in the Platform Committee was unanimous, thereby avoiding a floor fight at the convention itself. Carter instructed his supporters on the Platform Committee to vote for this plank making it unanimous so that the issue will not be discussed on national TV during the convention this month.

Many national Democratic leaders have expressed concern about the fact that Carter didn't really abide by the 1976 Democratic Party platform and wonder if Carter would abide by the 1980 platform. Some feel that Carter was willing to give in to Kennedy on the platform, because Carter didn't have any intention of following the platform anyway.

Besides being involved in the platform, the Democratic Party Rules Committee took action to include women and gays in future activities of the Party.

Women will continue the right to half of the delegates to future conventions and the Democratic Party went on record to oppose discrimination against lesbians and gay men within the party.

State parties are required to aim for proportions of minority members in each delegation which reflect their numbers "in the Democratic electorate". However, ratios and quotas were not approved.

Final approval of these rules and platform planks will be decided at the Democratic National Convention, which meets the week of August 11th in New York City.

Gay Delegates Warn Reagan on Platform

Governor Ronald Reagan was warned in mid-July by the first two openly gay delegates to a Republican National Convention that the 1980 Republican Platform could cost him the support of millions of gay voters. Timothy E. Drake of Illinois and Charles H. Thompson of New York told the Republican nominee in an open letter that lesbians and gay men were particularly concerned about the platform's failure to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment and its endorsement of "legislation protecting and defending the traditional American family".

Drake and Thompson noted that S. 1808, the "Family Protection Act," would, among other things, amend the Civil Rights Act to state that no action taken by an employer or labor organization "with respect to an individual who is homosexual" shall ever be deemed to be an unlawful employment practice. They asked Governor Reagan to disassociate himself from S. 1808. They said that the proposed act is in-

sistent with Reagan's 1980 policy statement on homosexual rights and with his outspoken opposition in 1978 to California Proposition 6 (the "Briggs Initiative"), which called for the dismissal of school teachers who engage in homosexual activity.

Drake and Thompson also sent appeals to members of the Republican Platform Committee during their Detroit meetings on July 7 and July 9. On the opening day of the convention, Drake and Thompson joined feminists and local gay activists behind a "Gay Vote 1980" banner at a march and rally for the Equal Rights Amendment near the convention site.

Both Drake and Thompson emphasized that gay Americans' fight for full civil rights will not be over until it has won the support of both major parties. They asked gay voters to remember their friends on the Republican ticket in November. They also urged that gay Republicans contact them, if they were interested in working together to promote gay rights within the Republican party. Drake's address is: 1660 N. LaSalle, Apt. 1602, Chicago, IL 60614. Thompson's address is: 291 W. 12th St., New York, NY 10014.

possibility and had issued a "Congressional Action Alert" to several thousand persons on the GRNL Constituent Network.

It is not clear whether constituent pressure was the reason that an anti-gay amendment was not offered to the Legal Services bill. A number of other restrictive amendments were offered to the bill, ranging from abortion to food stamps.

Was the alert really necessary? Yes, says the Gay Rights National Lobby. "We had a choice. We could put out an 'Action Alert' and take a chance that the amendment would not be offered. Or we could sit back and just hope that an amendment wasn't offered," Endean said.

The Gay Rights National Lobby had speculated that an amendment (prohibiting the Legal Services Corporation from handling gay-related cases) could be offered. To help build constituent pressure against such a possible amendment, GRNL had notified lesbian/gay media of that

Senate Legal Services Bill Passes Without Anti-Gay Amendment

WASHINGTON, D.C.—"We are greatly relieved that no anti-gay prohibitions were offered to the Legal Services bill in the Senate," said Steve Endean, Executive Director of the Gay Rights National Lobby. "However, it is still possible that, like the 1977 McDonald Amendment, we will see an anti-gay amendment on the floor of the House of Representatives."

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Music Reviews

Photo by Chloe Atkins



Interview with Gary Lindsay

by Warren Hull

Singer-composer Gary Lindsay is currently looking for musicians to start the first all-male gay band in the Sacramento area.

MGW Why does the Sacramento area need a gay male band?

GL Gail Smith's doing it with the girls. The guys gotta have a chance too. What's the matter with a guy singing a love song to a guy? It's time to be straight-forward about it. Most of the bands I've played with in the past have been copy bands—Top Forty stuff. They wouldn't venture out to do anything on their own. And even when they did, it sounded like the Top Forty.

MGW Then you write the music as well as the lyrics?

GL I've got an idea of what I want the lyrics to sound like, but I don't write music. That's why I've got to find the right people for the band. I'm hoping to find people for the group who'll understand what I'm trying to say. It's how they feel and interpret my lyrics. It's got to be a really tight group.

MGW And you prefer that all the band members are gay?

GL I'd prefer it, yes. That way the whole thing is in harmony. If they're straight, and open-minded, fine. But they've got to be pro-gay at minimum.

MGW What are you trying to say in your songs?

GL Friends tell me I'm basically a Romantic. I write about things that have happened to me, my lifestyle—the people I'm close to and those I'm not close to any more and the ones I wish I could get close to some day. How fast we move. How we're afraid of relationships. Too often gays judge each other by images. I don't like to be looked down on for some arbitrary reason. I'm going to be what I am. Accept me. It's not fair to the rest of the gay community. We've got to respect each other. If gays could only get together, maybe we'd have more rights than we do. Everybody's got the right to be people. I think my audience can relate to that.

MGW You sound like you've faced a lot of discrimination in your time.

GL Yeah, even the straight bands I've been with weren't accepted when it came out that they had one or two gay members. Everybody went, "Oh, excuse me." In a way the band will be an answer to that kind of treatment. It's a revenge that's not going to hurt any one.

MGW Some of your lyrics suggest Box Scaggs. Any similarity there?

GL Not really. I've heard some of his songs. Some of his love songs I like. I've been writing lyrics since I was seventeen. My music grew up in the sixties, back when everyone wanted to be a rock star.

MGW Will you be playing dance music then?

GL I hope my music makes people feel good. Dance music will only be a small portion of what we do, though. To get at my thing it will be all concert. They send the energy out and I send it back, so if the people feel like dancing, that's fine.

MGW Where will you perform?

GL "The Hut" would be a great place for a concert because their dance floor would make a great stage. I've already checked it out, and there's enough room to move around and perform, and there's also room to dance. Of course we'll play for anybody that wants us.

MGW What kind of musicians do you need?

GL We need someone on keyboard; bass, lead and rhythm guitar. I'd like to get someone on sax and I'd also like to find someone who can do the whole percussive thing—tambourine, bells, etc.

MGW Have you thought of a name for the band yet?

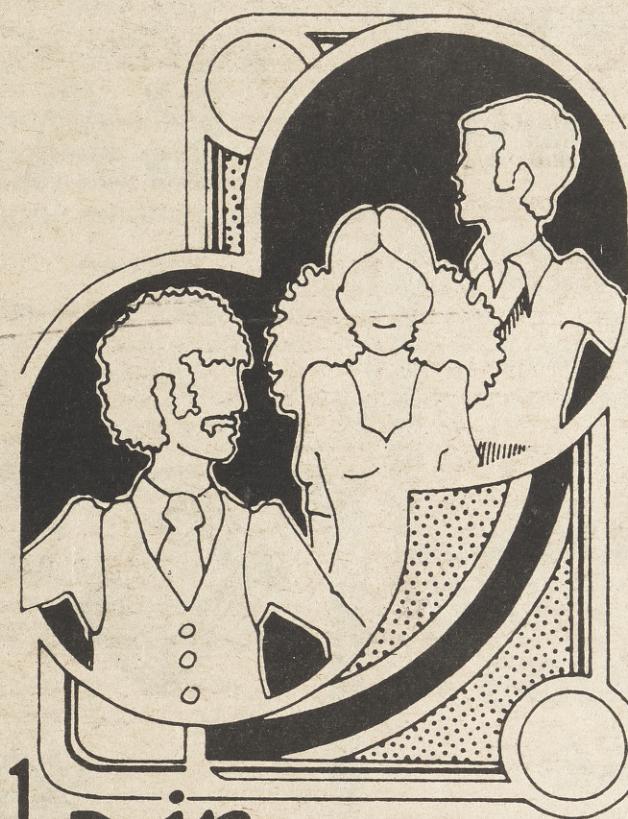
GL I want to call it "Any Boy's Band". As far as California goes, the name's not copyrighted. Because that's what it will be, any boy's band.

Gary Lindsay can be contacted at: (916) 967-0324 or 484-0251, home.

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ETHNIC GAY UPDATE

by

Pam Garrett

The July 12th meeting of the Ethnic Lesbian and Gay Support Group was the first "general meeting", and those of us who have been involved in the organizational work of the group were very delighted with the wide range of ethnic groups represented by the new membership. Men and women from the Chinese, Mexican, Cherokee, Latvian, Cuban, Sioux, Russian, Phillipino, German, Latina and Irish communities were present, and every person in attendance spoke of many others in their group who may join us in the near future. We seem well on our way to developing a wide base of support for our projected activities, which include dances with "live music", sponsorship of cultural events (plays, concerts), potlucks and sports events.

The Support Group will meet on the second

and fourth Saturdays of the month until the fall, at which time the schedule may change. Our summer meetings will primarily be designed to let us get better acquainted with one another, and explore ways and means of developing better community awareness regarding our presence. We are also discussing the possibilities of providing assistance to lesbian and gay Cuban refugees who may be settling in the Sacramento area. Relationships with gay cultural and ethnic organizations in the bay area are being established.

All ethnic gay people are invited to join with us (and tell a friend!). Please call Pamela at 332-9385, or Terry at 443-6527 (ONLY after 5:00 p.m.) for information regarding the time and place of the next meeting.

Alcoholism

What Do You Mean?

Alcoholism Is A Disease!!

by Joan Clarkin

Alcoholic addiction is the result of a person's inability to adjust to living situations. It is the result of an emotional imbalance, following a person's inability to face the situations and conditions that arise in his/her experiences.

This inability to meet situations is, of course, largely unconscious; that is, it is subjective, hidden, and therefore unknown to the conscious faculties, so I am offering the following information hoping that it will help the men and women in our community become aware about alcoholism.

A disease is defined as follows:

in general, any deviation from a state of health; an illness or sickness, more specifically, a definite, marked process having a characteristic train of symptoms. It may affect the whole body or any of its parts, and its ecology, pathology, and prognosis may be known or unknown.

A disease can also be classified according to whether it is of primary or secondary origin. All people suffering from the disease process known as "alcoholism" are also known as "problem drinkers." The term, problem drinker, has more of a moral and social implication.

Alcoholism can be classified into:

(1) Primary alcoholism, which includes (a) those persons who from the very first drink of an alcoholic beverage are unable to control their desire for it; and (b) those who through use over a great many years have developed an inability to take a drink or leave it alone, and have become like group (a).

(2) Secondary alcoholism includes those who use alcohol for its sedative action as means of escape from reality and, in particular, from their personal problems, which usually have a psychosomatic basis. This secondary group comprises by far the majority of persons suffering from alcoholism. However, most problem drinkers prefer to be in the primary group.

Regardless of which group an individual belongs to when under the influence of alcohol, she/he is ill. Also practically every family in the country is effected in one way or another by the disease of alcohol; a family member, relative or a close friend. In too many instances the problem is buried in a closet, laughed at or completely ignored. In all these cases the observer is in fact an enabler, is actually contributing to make the problem drinker more sick, thus making the recovery much more difficult.

To conclude, here are some statistics on "Alcoholism":

Did You Know

- ... that alcohol is the most abused drug in America.
- ... that alcohol kills at least 86,000 people a year.
- ... that teenage drug abuse experimentation may lead to continued alcohol abuse.
- ... that the most mildly used drug in the world is not aspirin but alcohol.
- ... that less than 5% of all alcoholics are on "skid-row" across the country.
- ... that alcoholism is one of the major causes of suicides.
- ... that a 2 oz. alcoholic drink contains 200 calories.
- ... that between 70% to 80% of all adult Americans drink some form of alcohol.
- ... that alcoholism is a progressive and deadly disease.
- ... that Alcoholics Anonymous is listed in every phone book in the nation and has the largest recovery rate.
- ... that there are between 10 and 11 million alcoholics.

It is apparent from the above statistics and facts that not only is alcoholism a disease but a major problem in our society today, of which most people are not aware.

Newsclips

(continued from pg. 4)

Policeman Admits to Helping Set Fire to a Gay Bar

A former Passaic, New Jersey policeman has admitted helping another officer set fire to a local gay bar as part of a paid arson scheme. James Connors, 27, testified that he discussed the plan with Passaic Patrolman Thomas J. Trotta, 33. The bar in question, The New Bell of Route 4, was destroyed by fire on March 4, 1976.

Chicago 'Gay Life' Gets City Hall Desk

Gay Life, a Chicago newspaper, has been given a desk in the pressroom of city hall, according to Publisher Grant Ford.

The assignment was the result of a dispute between the Chicago Tribune and Mayor Jane Byrne, who threatened to kick the Tribune reporter out of the city hall pressroom because of the paper's negative reports about her administration. As a result of the row, the number of pressroom desks was increased from seven to 14, and smaller publications were invited to move in.

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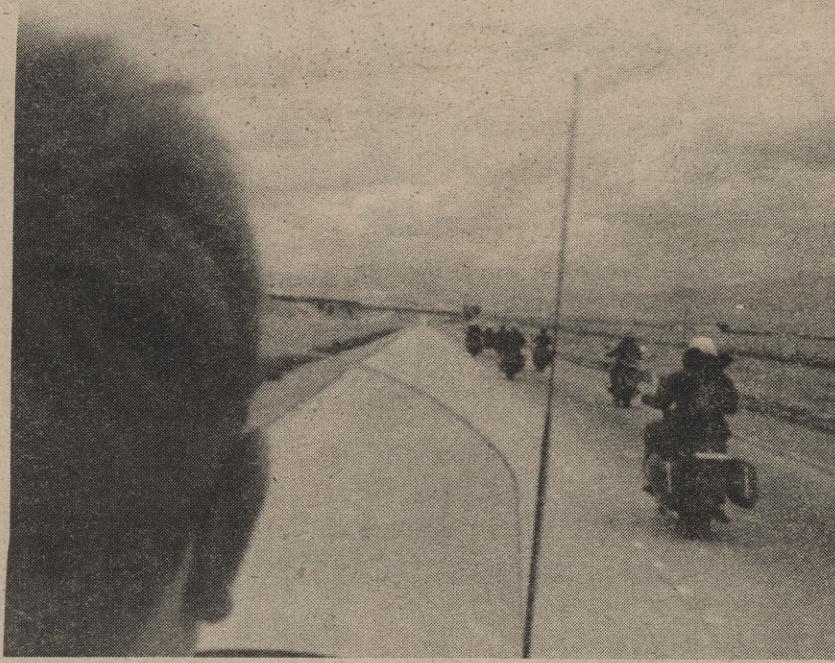
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Grand Canyon or Bust: 2300 Miles On Two Wheels



by Mike Walker

This year's Memorial Day Holiday was the occasion for the Valley Knights Motorcycle Club's first long ride. Thirteen members and friends logged just over 2300 miles on nine motorcycles and a pickup truck as they took a week-long camp-out trip to the Grand Canyon. Focal point of the ride was a three day camp-out hosted by the Phoenix based "SONS OF APOLLO" motorcycle club. For a \$35.00 advance registration fee, the host club organized the food, beverages and campsites for the approximate 130 who attended from 8 states. In order that they might arrive at the campsite by Saturday noon, the Sacramento bikers set a Thursday afternoon departure with overnight stops in Fresno (at two former Valley Knight members' home) and in Bullhead City, Arizona, where reservations had been made at a K.O.A. campground.

Although a number of area bikers did not go on the trip (anticipating hot desert riding) it became immediately evident that deserts can also be very cold! A rest stop in Bakersfield allowed the more frozen riders to purchase warmer coats, gloves and long johns. Since a number of the bikers were not accustomed to long, cold riding, they urged Steve, (the Club President and ride leader) to stop often to warm up with coffee and to have the all important smoke break. At one such stop, high above the desert floor, in Flagstaff, Arizona, someone bought a can of gold spray paint and neatly lettered the side of the pick-up truck identifying it as the "Valley Knights Beer Truck" from "Sacramento, Calif." After a lengthy discussion of the spelling of the word "Valley," the ride continued into the run site at Camp Verde, Arizona. They arrived just in time to register and take part in the Saturday bike events and non-bike or people events. Mike Walker brought back first place bike event trophy.

In addition to competition events, Saturday's activities included cocktails, roast beef dinner, and a "semi-drag" stage show. Sunday morning found the groggy eyed campers wiping a heavy coat of frost from the vehicles before they had breakfast and a 200 mile ride into the world famous Grand Canyon. Sixty-six motorcycles and 24 four wheel vehicles made the grand tour of the canyon and returned to camp in time for the 7 p.m. dinner followed by an awards ceremony for bike and people events. After the awards, most of the participants on the run gathered around the huge bonfires along the river's edge to talk and exchange friendships and cameraderie.

On Monday morning it was eye-openers at 8 a.m. followed by another sumptuous breakfast. To give the uninitiated some idea of logistics for such a camp-out: The Sons of Apollo M/C provided among other things, 200 cases of beer, 70 cases of mix, 60 quarts of booze, 1,500 pounds of ice, 48 dozen eggs, 18 pounds of coffee, 750 sandwiches, 80 pounds of beef, 40 pounds of sausage, etc., etc.

Procedures for breaking camp began and (due to work schedules) several started their direct route back to Sacramento. The others arranged an overnight stay at Sons of Apollo member's home (Phil and Brig) in Phoenix. The caravan from the campsite into the desert city had good communications, since Phil and Brig had a C.B. radio in their 4 wheel drive pickup and Steve, Gene and Lee all have C.B.'s on their bikes. A tall Texan with a noisy Suzuki and a strong Louisiana accent joined the group at this time. He was on vacation and wanted to see California too. He got to know several Sacramentans quite well before he even got to California.

Departure Tuesday from Phoenix, was slowed by hang-overs and the need of a carburetor for the pickup truck. Dale Diggs and Rafael Benitez had been splitting gas expenses on the truck and had been complaining about the 10 miles per gallon mileage. As they left Phoenix, both said they were getting high from the gas fumes. A check located a major gas leak and the part was replaced while the group drank margueritas at a nearby Mexican restaurant. Then it was Los Angeles or bust!

Indio, California was having a mild wind storm and the pollen count must have been very high. Several hay-fever prone bikers found that repeated sneezing inside a visored helmet can be both deafening and dangerous since it fogs the visor.

Los Angeles freeways at midnight were quite busy. The truck got lost and then one bike ran out of gas. The spare gas was in the truck. Hank, who was the group's Los Angeles contact (and motel) located the truck and led it to the disabled bike, then it was off to his place for a much needed night of rest. Those who had the energy tried the Hollywood bars, so the Wednesday morning departure from L.A. did not happen until afternoon. Although the 101 route led the group through San Luis Obispo, site of an earthquake that day, the ride weary biker's butts were much too numb to feel anything as minor as a quake.

They spent Wednesday night in a Palo Alto bar and the nearby baths. The fairly short ride Thursday, from Palo Alto to Sacramento allowed the participants to relax in the afternoon, shake the Arizona sand out, and relive some of the fun and interesting happenings along the 2300 miles of two wheel vacationing. The experience was important to each individual in a slightly different way. Rafael (who tends to be a romantic) said the awe-inspiring views of the Canyon renewed his faith in mankind. Dale has fond memories of a nude midnight swim in the Verde River with a pure white husky dog. Randy laughs and says that he wants to forget the difficulty of getting tent stakes to hold in sand. Mike is planning on proudly taking his first bike event trophy to all the area bars and Steve is looking into the possibility of next year's long ride (going perhaps to Vancouver!). Several of the others felt that it was great to meet friends from other areas and exchange ideas.

While each enjoyed different things on this 2300 mile odyssey, they enjoyed them together and that is important.

The summer riding schedule has been planned by the Valley Knights Motorcycle Club's Road Captain, Lou, and he points out that non-members (even non-bikers) are welcome. Coming events and ride applications are available at the club's open meetings. For information of events watch M.G.W., your bar bulletin board or contact the Valley Knights at P.O. Box 8163, Sacramento 95818 or by calling 455-6540.

Between the Covers

Book Reviews

Another Kind of Love

ANOTHER KIND OF LOVE, Paula Christian, 1980, Timely Books, P.O. Box 267, New Milford, Conn. 06776, \$5.95 plus \$1.25 shipping.

Reviewed by Joyce Bright

Whether a romance is well written or not, I'm a sucker for the drama of it all. I seldom put such books down until I'm satisfied that the heroine has overcome all obstacles in the pursuit of true love, and has finally gotten together with her princess.

Paula Christian, whose previous novels have been reviewed in this paper, is one of the finest Lesbian romance writers in the country. The people at Timely Books have filled an important void by reissuing, at a reasonable price, her books. *Another Kind of Love* is the third such release.

Laura is the heroine of this tale. She is the editor/writer/general-girl-genius for a movie magazine. Walter, her married lover, is the publisher. She likes him, but there's something missing.

Then Laura meets Ginny, a would-be movie star, and the protege of Saundra, a vain and spoiled big-time star. Well, Laura and Ginny spend time together behind Saundra's back. (This is where things get really juicy). Laura realizes, after a night in bed, that she's in love with Ginny. Alas, Ginny is committed to staying with Saundra—because of her movie star dreams—but Ginny would not mind having an affair with Laura. Shallow affairs are not for our heroine, however.

Now as luck would have it, Walter wants Laura to move to New York and head-up the magazine there. Laura decides to throw herself into her career, and leaves for New York. In New York she meets Madeline, a divorced financier for the magazine. Laura moves in with Madeline—just until she can find a place of her own. (Laura is much too busy suffering to have time to look). And guess what? Madeline just happens to be a Lesbian. In fact, a kinder, wiser, more mature Lesbian you've never met!

Soooo, what happens when Walter decides to get a divorce, and proposes to Laura? Or how does Laura react when she is tricked into seeing Ginny in an off-Broadway play? Or how about when Saundra comes storming into a gay bar in search of Ginny? What of the ever-patient Madeline? ("Look Laura, I told you—this kind of life is just one step away from suicide!") Her voice was sober and full of warning.") And does our lady find true love?

You're going to have to read the book to find out. It's fun!

Incidentally, this book will be published in the fall. You can save money by ordering it now at the above address. The price will be raised after publication.

Homosexual Desire

HOMOSEXUAL DESIRE by Guy Hocquenghem
Alison & Busby
By Kreis Francis

In trying to lump homosexuality, Marxism and Freudianism under one roof, Guy Hocquenghem has defeated his unstated purpose in writing *Homosexual Desire*. The author many times defines his theories within the same structural concepts he is attacking; a talent I find envious, though of dubious debatable merit. In short: you can prove ANYTHING with the Bible—both pro and con; ergo, you can prove anything with Freud—but who would want to?

Drawing upon the oft-repeated French delusion that America is a matriarchal country, his sweeping statements and conclusions presuppose too many unvalidated equations. American society is primarily, in comparison to that of France, patriarchal, and acknowledging the French's renowned subjugation and downright misogyny towards women, this author's approach is far too general—the inverse of "all homosexuals are alike".

There is agreement with his thought that "a crisis is shaking this society in the form of a confrontation between its unconscious forces and its rationalized expression" but issue must be taken with "were homosexuality to receive... a show of approval"....we would soon arrive at "the abolition of the heterosexual couple and of the family".

A constant contradiction of inner thought appears throughout this dreary tome. On one hand Hocquengham states "to attempt to make homosexuality respectable by means of psychology is hopeless" yet he relentlessly persists in throwing in supportive psychological quotes when it best serves his argument; an argument which never reaches a logical base, but continues to run a continuous and contiguous circle.

Using homosexuality as a challenge, thereby justifying a Holy War of sorts with heterosexuals (a la Christians fighting the Devil), is too pat an answer for a man with Hocquengham's credentials, and too simplistic a solution for this day and time.

Perhaps this book, written in 1972, did once serve a purpose in nudging the dreadfully persecuted French gays towards Gay Liberation. Unfortunately, *Homosexual Desire*, in 1980, falls far short of service as a guidebook or readable material for the politically re-born gays of today's world.

A suggestion: try Bette Midler's *View From A Broad*. It's far more realistic.

A Fairy Tale

A Fairy Tale by S. Steinberg.
Delacorte Press.

Reviewed by James K. Graham

Sometimes I wonder if the world is ready for another story of a nice Jewish boy from Beverly Hills who discovers he's gay and moves to San Francisco; comes out to his Aunt Sylvia "who raised him from a baby"; endures her lamentations and machinations; and finally marries a nice doctor. Just when I am ready to decide in the negative, along comes a book like *A Fairy Tale* and I have to change my mind.

As the brief summary in my first paragraph implies, it is not the plot which makes this book worthwhile. What makes it worthwhile is a combination of delightful description, a keen ear for dialogue, and a fairly unobtrusive educational.

Much of *A Fairy Tale* is told in the letters passing back and forth between Solly and Aunt Sylvia, and, as good letters should, they reflect their authors' personalities in their vivid conversational tone. The epistolary narrative is not much used any more, and it is good to see it revived in so lively a fashion.

Steinberg uses his descriptions to involve his readers in the convolutions of his plot and the predicaments of his characters. By describing not only places but also the characters' reactions to them, he evokes our empathic response. For example, when Solly takes his Uncle Hymie to a Polk Street bar, "Uncle Hymie wasn't impressed. At least he wasn't impressed by the old queen who wanted to dance with him. I explained that Uncle Hymie wasn't exactly into dancing with men, and the old queen apologized, mentioning that there was some question concerning the validity of his manhood but under the circumstances, what-the-hell, and bought us a round of drinks. Then he asked Uncle Hymie if he'd like to go home and fuck."

"I must say I was proud of Uncle Hymie. No seizures, no attack, no sputtering. All he did was look the old number over, shake his head, and say 'I didn't know people our age could go home and fuck.'"

One of a novelist's finest tools is an ear for dialogue—the ability to put believable words into the mouths of disparate characters—and here Steinberg excels. Few of us, I venture, have not met someone like Solly, whose ethnic inflections and locutions keep popping through the slick surface of his urban gay patois, like the dandelions that make a dichondra lawn interesting. But I suspect that like many gay men and unlike gardeners, Solly cultivates his "non-standard" speech patterns, well aware of the interest they add.

As for Aunt Sylvia, perhaps a minor classic of a comic character, it is best to let her speak for herself: "Sylvia, I said to myself. If Jimmy Coleman is at Bill and Marvin's, and Murry [Solly] is here, what can possibly happen?"

"So I asked Marvin what he knew about how Jimmy was feeling, and he told me when he and Bill were up there he spent all his time in the kitchen listening to Jimmy crying the blues about how he was afraid you weren't interested in him. It turned out he was feeling the same way about you that you were feeling about him. (You thought you told me something I didn't already know? Hah! Everybody knows that Jewish mothers know everything, even if they are only aunts.)"

Finally, *A Fairy Tale* is a book about education: Solly's and Uncle Hymie's and Aunt Sylvia's education about the realities of gay life. And in the course of their education, which is always serious underneath the hysteria, they manage to share a good deal of it with the reader—painlessly and perhaps unwittingly, because of the hysteria. Steinberg refutes a good many erroneous ideas about gay people and our lives, the ones we often hold as well as those that the straight world holds.

Latest Information on VD Aired at Gay Medical Conference

by John Sorbo and Harvey Thompson, M.D.

"Current Aspects of Sexually Transmitted Diseases", a two day medical conference, was held June 19 and 20 at San Francisco State University. The conference, co-sponsored by the National Coalition of Gay Sexually Transmitted Diseases Services and Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, was the largest of its kind ever held. An impressive list of gay and non-gay experts spoke on a wide range of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The audience of several hundred gay and non-gay men and women was composed of health care providers (i.e. nurses, doctors, physician's assistants, etc.) from throughout the nation.

The increasing awareness among the medical community of gay STDs as a major public health problem was underscored by the presence of keynote speaker Dr. Paul Wiesner, Director of the Venereal Disease Control Division of the U.S. Center for Disease Control. In his opening remarks Dr. Wiesner noted the need for more medical research on STDs, but he emphasized the greater importance of educating both health care providers and consumers to take preventive measures against these diseases. Dr. Wiesner also broke the dismal news that VD programs in many parts of the country have recently been suffering cutbacks.

Although a small portion of the conference dealt with the gynecologic health care needs of lesbians, the main focus was on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of the more than twenty kinds of STDs found among gay men. The concluding workshops examined the feasibility of creating recommended guidelines for sexual behavior to limit the spread of disease within gay male populations, and these workshops included as speakers psychologists, educators, clinicians, and even a gay bathhouse owner.

Incidence of Disease

Some significant information was brought up at the conference, and it can be grouped into several categories. The first category deals with the number of STD infections. New cases of syphilis have increased 20-40% in the past year in some cities, and one study has shown that 45% of those infected with syphilis are gay or bisexual men. A screening of volunteers at one metropolitan VD clinic revealed that 26% of the gay men were infected with intestinal protozoa (small one cell organisms which may cause no symptoms at all or anything from a run down feeling to severe cramping and diarrhea or constipation). One of the diseases in this class is called amebiasis, and last year in San Francisco the number of documented cases of amebiasis doubled from 250 to 500. Perhaps the most alarming fact about this is that only 15% of those who get infected ever get cured because symptoms may be minor, because the organism is hard to detect—oftentimes requiring several stool specimen tests before being found—and because the available drugs aren't always able to eradicate the organisms in one treatment. The remaining 85% of infected persons can infect others with oral-genital contact alone, though oral-anal contact is the most common mode of transmission. Hepatitis is another troublesome disease, and recent screening studies at Bay Area and LA gay VD clinics show that from 48-60% of those gay men have been infected with hepatitis type B. Many didn't know they had had it and recalled only flu-like symptoms, but even in these instances they were contagious and may have suffered significant liver damage.

Symptoms

Another category of information brought up at the conference covers symptoms, and the unfortunate news was that many of the sexually transmitted diseases cause few or no symptoms in many instances. It has been demonstrated that gonorrhea in the rectum causes no symptoms in about 70% of those infected, and gonorrhea in the throat is asymptomatic about 90% of the time (note: being asymptomatic does not necessarily decrease infectiousness). When rectal gonorrhea causes symptoms, the most common complaints are mucous on the stools, anal itching, and anal discharge. As mentioned previously, the protozoal diseases (such as amebiasis and giardiasis) are often asymptomatic: about 50% of persons have no symptoms. The remaining 50% may only have a run down feeling with occasional cramping and diarrhea, or sometimes they may begin having constipation. Infrequently these diseases cause severe intestinal upset and bloody diarrhea. Viral diseases such as hepatitis may cause only a brief flu-like illness or may cause serious illness requiring weeks to months of being bedridden before full recovery. Another virus, cytomegalovirus, has recently been implicated as being sexually transmitted among gay men, and it can cause symptoms similar to mononucleosis ("mono").

Treatment

One aspect of STDs—that of treatment—was discussed at length, but no recent advances were reported. In fact, a setback was brought up when researchers presented solid evidence that tetracycline is not an effective treatment for rectal gonorrhea; injected penicillin is the current treatment of choice.

Prevention

In spite of a major emphasis on prevention, only one good piece of news regarding vaccination was revealed at the conference... The news was that the new vaccine against hepatitis type B is expected to be marketed within one to two years (unfortunately, there are other types of hepatitis which gay men may contract with more frequency once the currently raging epidemic of hepatitis type B has subsided). Some bad news was that the development of a safe and effective vaccine against gonorrhea is at best years away, and it may never be accomplished.

The concluding workshops of the conference examined ways of bringing the nationwide epidemic of gay STDs under control. As a result of these discussions the National Coalition of Gay STD Services is now considering recommended guidelines for sexual behavior that, if followed, will reduce the risks of infection and will curb the escalating STD rates among gay male populations. In the meantime, some simple precautionary measures were informally recommended by some speakers and participants at the conference. For example, it was noted that some sites for sexual liaisons are riskier than others (note: almost any site in San Francisco is risky, as the gay male population there has one of the world's highest incidences of STD infections). Parks and bathrooms are risky from the standpoint that there is no way to thoroughly wash with soap and water after an encounter, and the sexual partner may have inadequately washed (if at all) after any previous interaction. Bathhouses have the disadvantages that men tend to have multiple encounters and wash inadequately between partners. Also, bathhouses often have surfaces which cannot be thoroughly disinfected and may harbor crab lice and the "eggs" of intestinal protozoa (these "eggs" can then be picked up and eventually end up in a person's mouth). Meeting a potential sexual partner in places other than those mentioned above does not necessarily lessen the risk of contracting an STD, and it is incorrect to assume that a well-groomed and clean appearing person is unlikely to be infected with an STD.

Some conference participants pointed out the increased risks associated with oral-anal and anal-genital contacts and suggested that men wanting to reduce these risks should avoid "rimming" (oral-anal sex), use a condom during anal sex, use water soluble lubricants (petroleum-based lubricants are hard to wash off and may trap harmful organisms against the skin, urinate soon after sex, and wash genitals and hands with soap and water soon after sex).

Proposals for improving the early detection of STDs included advice that gay men who are sexually active with multiple partners get screened every three months with a blood test for syphilis, and with throat, penile, and anal cultures for gonorrhea. The health care provider should be made aware of any changes in bowel function as well as the fact that the person has had same-sex encounters, because additional tests may then be appropriate. With regard to early detection, emphasis was made on the importance of being able to contact potentially infected sex partners. By giving a phone number and requesting the sex partner to call if he later discovers that he has an STD, the individual can improve the chances that any infection is detected early.

The conference left the overall impression that sexually transmitted diseases among gay men are increasing at an alarming rate, and so far efforts to deal with this problem have fallen woefully short of their goals. The numerous concerns expressed at this conference emphasize that these diseases are not to be passed off as minor nuisances with no more significance than the common cold. Rather, they are serious—some even life-threatening—illnesses which can cause long term damage and disability to parts of the body after the initial illness has been cured. The fact that many of these diseases cause few or no symptoms only aggravates the problem. These diseases can cause insidious damage when they are not causing obvious illness; furthermore, they can be easily spread to others by the unsuspecting (and still sexually active) victim. In addition, the sheer cost in medical expenses and sometimes even years of health problems is simply too great for intelligent and informed gay men to ignore: they must begin to take action to safeguard and maintain their health. The point was made over and over again that vaccines and drugs are not going to yield any significant reduction in the numbers of STD infections; the only hope is prevention and early detection of disease.

"Current Aspects of Sexually Transmitted Diseases" was a well presented symposium, and it was highly acclaimed by those who attended. In many ways, the conference symbolized the growing nation-wide concern and determination to take action against the spread of gay sexually transmitted diseases. The conference also represented considerable progress towards improved gay oriented health care. Nonetheless, the relative success of this one conference does not diminish the fact that a successful effort against STDs will require the widespread education and involvement of the gay male community, and this process is really only now beginning.



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My Worst Fear: Coming Out on the Front Page of a Newspaper

by Jim Fitzpatrick, Jr.

Craig Chester never really considered himself to be in the closet. Yet, when he appeared on television and on the front page of the *Sacramento Union* after the Sacramento Gay Pride Parade, he was scared.

Although his relatives and close friends knew that Chester was gay, neither his boss nor any of his fellow employees at the company where Chester is an insurance underwriter had any idea.

Then, suddenly it seemed the whole world knew. The initial shock of the sudden media exposure and the subsequent fears of widespread public recognition have since given way to positive feelings. Because everyone knows he is gay, Chester is now able to be completely himself.

Chester's story is a familiar one. A native of San Francisco, who has spent the last ten of his 34 years in Sacramento, Chester was plagued by fears, confusion and anger when at 14, he realized that he was attracted to men.

"At the same time," says Chester, "I was fighting this religious calling and didn't know where to go." Chester, who was baptized into the Catholic religion, had just entered the seminary and this added to his personal turmoil.

"For me to have any sexual act with a man was truly falling by the wayside and it was in my eyes at that time, eternal damnation, and I had a real problem with that."

"But I solved it on my own. I just grew to realize that I could relate to God on my own and I wouldn't have to worry about that anymore. And I was never doing anything to hurt anybody because all I was seeking was what everybody wants and that's somebody to love or somebody to say they loved you. Acceptance. And so I endured four tormented years and then came out of it."

At age eighteen, Craig Chester left the seminary because of his reactions to a sexual encounter. "I was in there (the seminary) for three and a half years. I was very close to one fellow, who is a lawyer in San Francisco now."

"He was two years older than I, and he quit the seminary and decided he was going to leave. When he did, he uh...they don't tell you anything like this, they just let it happen..."

That night, his brother who also happened to be in school with me came in... We had a thing called the 'great silence'—after 7 o'clock at night, there's no talking allowed.

"And his brother broke the silence and came in to tell me that Joe had left and for me this was like losing my own brother.

"I ended up crying half the night and finally one of the brothers came in and took me to the brothers' quarters and put me in one of the guest rooms figuring I'd be more comfortable there, not crying in the dormitory.

"Little did I know how uncomfortable I was going to end up being by morning, because he just took advantage of me and I didn't know how to cope with it. I could cope with it from someone on the outside, but I could not cope with it from someone who had already taken the vows. And the next day I was petrified and so I left."

Now, Chester is a nonpracticing Catholic. "The only reason I don't practice it is because the religion is so instilled in me as to what it takes to be a Catholic that I can't be a practicing Catholic because I feel that I don't fulfill all the requirements. To do only part of the job is to me to not do it at all. I'm on a one to one relationship with God."

For a brief time, Chester was involved with MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) but rapidly became disillusioned with the organization.

"MCC I thought was great when it first started, but then it became exactly what I was trying to get away from... a regimented religion with lots of rules and regulations, where everybody seemed to be ex-clergy who were trying to find the place where they could still be clergy."

"I felt MCC did for me what it was supposed to do... it's to get people on a one to one basis with themselves and their God and their religion, and when they're comfortable, they no longer need a regimented church."

On June 22, 1980, Craig Chester marched in the Sacramento Gay Pride Parade, an event that holds many memories for him.

"Basically, we (he and friends) were just spending the afternoon together, standing for what we are and not being afraid that society is going to call us names or destroy us because of our one unified feeling of gayness.

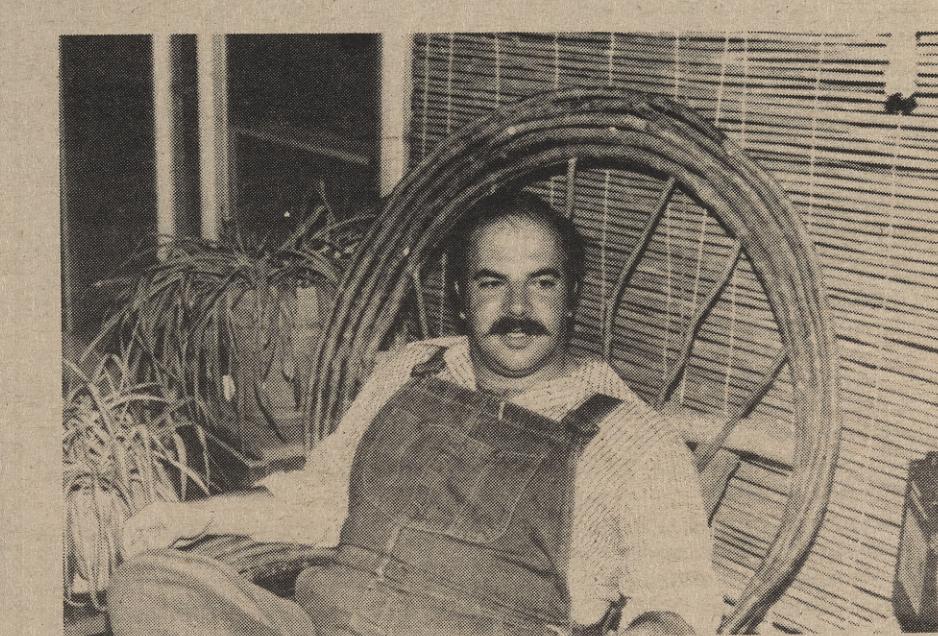
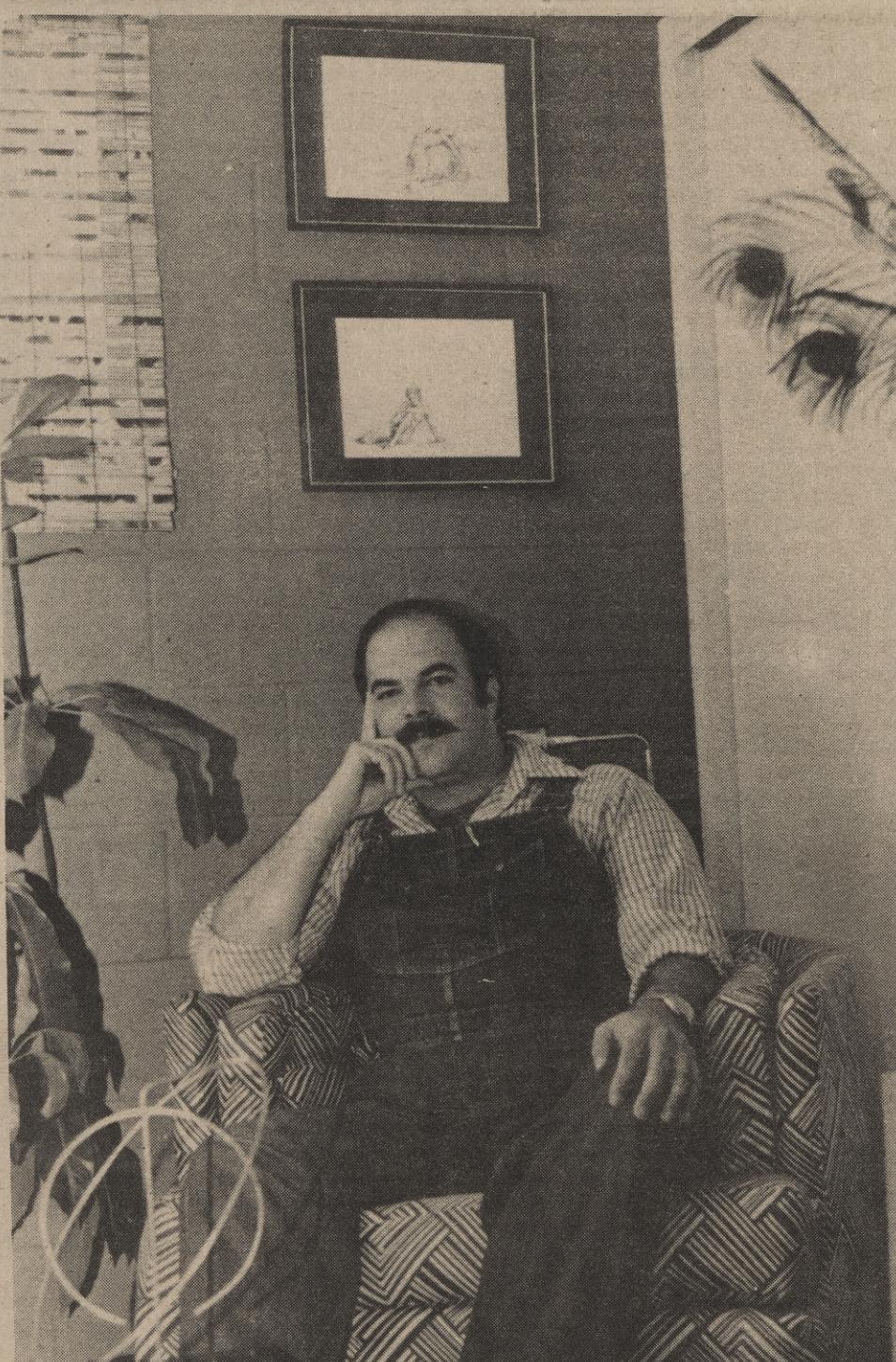


Photo by Blue

"We went to the parade to march, to be in the sun, to have a good day, to see other people." As much as Chester enjoyed that day, he was greatly disappointed with the turnout at the parade.

"The most blatant thing lacking from this parade was the support of gay business. Other than the River City Business Association, there was not, that I saw, one banner or one placard about any gay bars, which are the biggest money-makers in gay society."

"Not one of them was supporting any group of people, nor did they have a group representative of themselves. And I was real disappointed because these are the people that charge you a door charge every night to come into their establishment as if they're doing you a favor."

"And then when it comes to something for human rights for the people that they cater to, they don't do anything."

While marching in the parade that Sunday morning, Chester was approached by a local television newscaster who conducted a brief interview with him. Later, he was photographed at the rally which followed the parade.

"Everyone said, 'Ah, don't worry, nothing will occur,'" Chester recalls as he describes his initial fears after the media encounters.

"Then I heard it was on television, so then I immediately froze up again." Chester missed the news broadcast of the parade that featured him, but knowing that someone at the office must have seen it, he spent a restless night.

"That night, I didn't sleep. I tried to, I fell asleep a dozen times, but woke up every half hour to look at my watch and go to the bathroom. I was a nervous wreck the next day."

Chester is usually the first one in the office, and as part of his duties, opens the building for the 46 other employees. As each arrived, Chester waited for the first comment to be made regarding his appearance on the previous evening's news.

"Nobody said anything. I work with a woman I've worked with in four companies over the past twelve years. We have never discussed my gayness in that twelve years, but we're very close friends."

"I was talking to her at her desk and she was looking straight ahead with a little grin on her face and she said, 'I saw you on TV last night.' And I said, 'Oh,' and she said, 'and Fran saw you too, and Kay.' And that's how it started at work."

As it turned out, most people in the office had either seen the news or had heard about it. Chester said nothing about it to his boss until he learned that he was also on the front page of the *Sacramento Union*.

"Then I thought, 'oh, no, what do I do?' and then I thought, 'well, if you're going to come out, come out with a bang.'"

Chester's biggest fear was how his supervisor would take the news. He was still a new employee at the time, and had four days of his 90 day probationary period left to go.

"I went into the boss's office. The boss is a typical country boy out of Fresno, wears cowboy boots and a suit, and I thought 'red-neck city, here it comes.'

"And I said, 'Jim, I think I'd better talk to you,' and he says, 'Well, what's the problem?' And I said, 'Well, I don't know what you've heard or if you've heard anything, but there are some rumors going around the office about my being on television last night on the news and now, apparently, I'm on the front page of the *Union*.'

"Well, I don't know what rumors you've heard, but chances are they're true. But it has no effect upon my job or anything else that you should judge me on here in the office..." And he said, 'Well, so What?'"

Since then, Craig Chester has felt no hostility directed towards him for being who he is. Although he had not considered himself to be a closeted gay, there were many friends and companions who had not been aware of his sexual preference.

Now that these people are aware of Chester's gayness, many feel closer to him. Craig Chester now enjoys the freedom at work, as well as socially, to be himself without worrying about strangers' hostility—a worry that need not exist in any work situation.

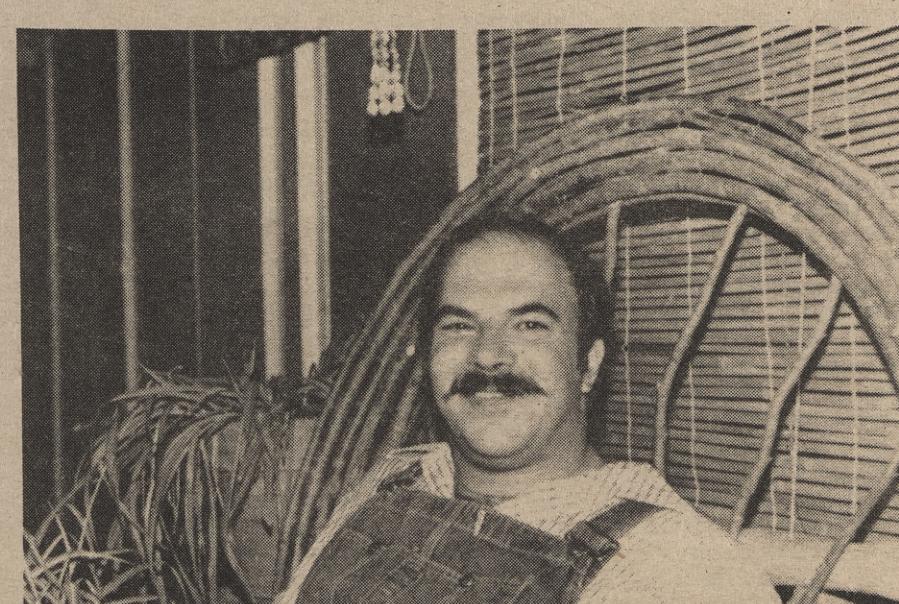


Photo by Blue

An Interview with Dr. Harvey Thompson

by Dave McCulloch

Dr. Harvey Thompson has become prominent in Sacramento as the area's only openly gay physician/internist with a largely gay clientele. Dr. Thompson has had his own practice at his office at 921A 21st St. since May 1979, after moving to Sacramento in September 1978. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Thompson has also written two articles for MGW, including a state-of-the-disease article in the May 1980 issue on hepatitis among gay men, which has reached epidemic proportions. A concerned and active member of Sacramento's gay community, Dr. Thompson is also personable, humorous, and intelligent, as the following MGW interview indicates.

MGW: Medically you describe yourself as an internist. What, for the many medically ignorant among us, is an internist?

Thompson: That's a good question. It amazes me how little thought people give to choosing a physician and consider a doctor to be a doctor. They don't seem to realize it's their life they are entrusting to someone without knowing more about him.

An internist is a specialist in adult medicine. A doctor graduates from medical school and then is required to do an internship. So people get that year confused with an "internist". He could stop training after that year and be a general practitioner. In this age of specialization most go on to a specific area: surgery, psychiatry, pediatrics, obstetrics-gynecology, or, in my case, internal medicine. An internist studies diseases in more detail to include the uncommon ones. I spent five more years beyond internship in training—two of them in the sub-specialty of cancer and blood diseases. Obviously I'm proud of my qualifications and the fact that I'm board-certified; I worked hard for that. It's not required, but I'm one of the few Sacramento internists taking a "recertification exam" covering the advances in internal medicine in the past few years. It's important to stay abreast of new medical knowledge and education is a continual process, I'll be doing that the rest of my life. Most patients aren't even aware, though, of which doctors are keeping up and which aren't.

MGW: Do you feel there's a need for a gay physician?

Thompson: If everyone wasn't so uncomfortable about homosexuality, maybe not. But all doctors don't know the questions to ask, where to look for infections, or what gays "do." And the patients feel more accepted not worrying about the doctor's moral judgment and are more likely to be open about their health problems. Straight doctors are ignorant about gays. I know from personal experience in Sacramento that VD is as often treated incorrectly as it is done right by the private medical sector. I've picked up a couple of serious disseminated gonococcal infections in sick office patients who have had to be admitted to a hospital— infections that may have been missed by other doctors who wouldn't have considered the disease as a possibility.

Also, I can keep a finger on the pulse of the gay community's health problems and have already provided important epidemiologic information to the Health Department on what's "going around." I've made a point of having a good working relationship with the state and county VD sections. And likewise, they've been very supportive to me.

MGW: Have you made any mistaken diagnoses as a result of inadequate information, as a straight physician treating a gay patient would be wont to do?

Thompson: Sure, I've made some mistakes—I'm learning as I go along. There's a lot that's not in the textbooks yet about gay health. Next week I'm going to the first gay health conference in San Francisco and it's a high-powered meeting. The chief of the venereal disease section for the CDC (Center for Communicable Diseases) out of Atlanta is coming, along with several renowned professors from the medical schools in the Bay Area. The field is just starting to learn about health problems among gays. Every city should have a gay practice because of the need for this kind of specialization.

MGW: How do you feel about having a gay practice?

Thompson: It feels very good. I look forward to going to my office now, something I didn't always enjoy when I was the "junior" partner in a prestigious internal medical group in Albuquerque. Then no one knew I was gay; I had to wear a sports jacket and tie and spent most of the day with dying cancer patients—oncology, or cancer chemotherapy, was my specialty then. The older partner was a respected Christian man of the community who was very outspoken against pornography—and, I'm sure, homosexuality too—who was always trying to get me married off to a nurse. I was more interested in the orderly.

MGW: Have you had any trouble being accepted in the Sacramento medical community?

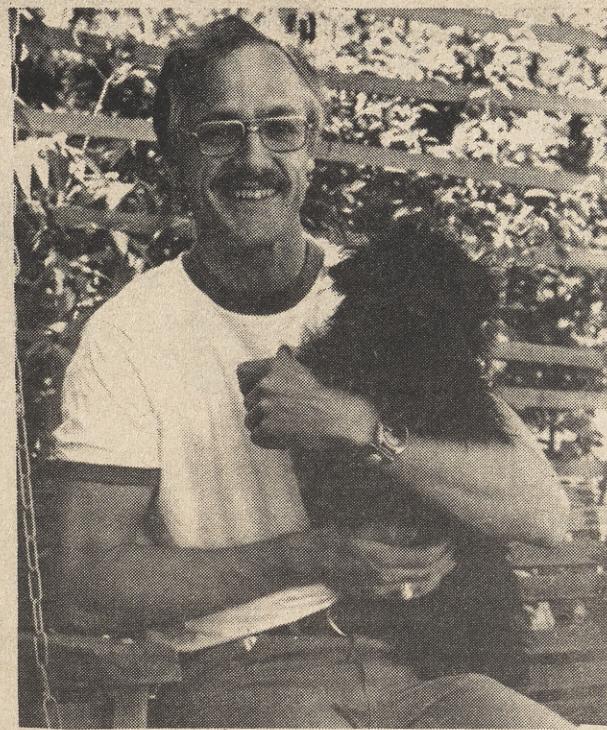
Thompson: I don't know. I've been accepted on the staffs of the three "downtown" hospitals when I requested privileges and was made an active member of the Sacramento Medical Society, a very conservative group. They called me once to "update" their referral list and asked what area of referral I was interested in. I asked if they ever got calls asking for a gay doctor and the woman's off-hand reply was, "Well, we tell them we have no knowledge of that." My answer was, "Well, now you do—I'm gay." Yet I've never gotten a single referral from the Medical Society, although I pay a few hundred dollars in dues every year.

I refer a lot of patients to other specialists and have had good care given to my patients, although it's upsetting to read the chart and find statements like "The patient admits to being a homosexual", as though he were confessing to a crime. One hospital in town has a pamphlet rack just a few feet down the hall from the patients' rooms with one entitled "Sexual Morality: Guidelines for Today's Catholic." This pamphlet has a damning chapter on homosexuality with quotes like, "Most view homosexuality as a sin or a sickness" and "Homosexuals are immature, too frightened to take life directly. Society needs courage to take a good look at itself, since the rash of homosexuality is spreading at epidemic proportions." That kind of stuff is very damaging, especially in a public hospital where it could be widely read.

MGW: How do you feel about being the only really openly gay physician with a largely gay clientele in Sacramento?

Thompson: There are several "out" physicians—it's just that I'm the only one in primary care. There are a few openly gay psychiatrists, and we used to have a group—Sacramento gay physicians, dentists and medical students. At one time there were about 15 people coming to the meetings. There was even a pediatrician. But again, none of that is primary care. I think if I got really busy I'd like to have a partner who was openly gay. But that isn't much of a possibility right now. And I do belong to the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, but I haven't gone to the meetings lately, although I get the newsletters.

I feel better not trying to hide it, because if you do, it requires a conscious effort all day. That's what I was doing in Albuquerque and I think it carries over into other parts of your life. I certainly don't feel isolated, though.



MGW: What do you think of gays as patients?

Thompson: At least to me, they're more interesting than straight patients—they're not just into money, kids and a color TV. As a whole, they are healthier—more open to talking about their sexuality (if they know you are accepting).

I thought—or hoped—the phone would ring off the hook since I began practice as an openly gay physician. If you figure there are about 100,000 gay and lesbian patients in this greater metropolitan area of one million people without a physician supportive of the same lifestyle, then there would seem to be a real opportunity and need. But it's been slow, although it's growing.

Sometimes I wonder if there isn't reverse discrimination among ourselves. Because homosexuals sometimes don't feel too good about themselves and their sexuality, perhaps they project this onto other homosexuals—i.e., "He can't be any good, he's gay." But if you look around, some of the best things are done by gays: the best restaurants, the nicest interior decorating, the best playwrights, the most sensitive therapists, etc.

MGW: Is everyone that works in your office gay?

Thompson: Some are, some aren't. And they're not all men. I'm sure little old ladies sitting in the reception area alongside the guys in Levi's are completely unaware of what is going on. I don't force my being gay on anyone—a lot of times it's not important. It's a respectable-looking office and there is nothing sleazy about it.

I interviewed about eight women for the office when I first opened; most were straight but they still wanted the job after I told them most of my patients would probably be gay because I was.

Now, my accountant is straight, the insurance man is gay, one typist is straight, the other is gay, the cleaning woman is a lesbian, the landlord is straight, etc.

MGW: Have you ever experienced any homophobia from straight patients who found out you were gay?

Thompson: No straight patients have come up to me and said, "I just found out you're gay and I can't come to you anymore." Some straight people have been referred to me by gays. And, some women actually feel more comfortable having pelvic exams by a gay doctor.

One important thing I should mention is that confidentiality is stressed. Many people won't come to me, I think, because they figure that if they come to the office their medical history will be all over the bars. But I like to try to keep things as confidential as possible. For instance, if someone has gonorrhea, I'll make sure I don't tell their lover. If things were to get out of the office and into the bars, it would be very damaging to the practice, and I don't want that to happen, for my sake or my patients'.

MGW: What did you do before you came to Sacramento?

Thompson: I grew up in Washington state on a wheat and cattle ranch, went to WSU and the University of Washington Medical School in Seattle. Then I did my internship in the Army and went to Vietnam for a year as a captain in the Green Berets. I was the surgeon general for II Corps then and earned a Bronze Star. After I returned I did a three-year residency in internal medicine in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the last year as "chief resident." I'm very proud of a letter I got from the three department heads stating that I was the "best chief resident they ever had."

After I passed the boards for certification in internal medicine I did a couple years of fellowship in oncology and hematology, one year sponsored by the American Cancer Society at Mt. Zion hospital in San Francisco. Then I broke up with my lover of seven years while in San Francisco, moped around for a year studying Spanish and working in general medical clinics, and finally moved to Sacramento where I didn't know anyone but set up practice, one of the best things I ever did.

MGW: How do you like Sacramento?

Thompson: Very well. I like the climate, the wide-open spaces and have always liked agricultural areas since I grew up with 4-H, Grange, and the Future Farmers of America. I really am getting into gardening and growing things. People seem to have more time here, and friends and acquaintances aren't as transient as in "the City."

I bought a house over by Curtis Park (but on the "bad" side of Franklin) which I enjoy with my two Scottish Terrier dogs, Mollie McTush MacGregor and McGeorge MacLintosh MacGregor. What I miss, of course, is a relationship, although I have a best friend, which is something I never seemed to have made time for before. I had a seven-year lover while I was in my training which were some of the best years of my life, but we changed and grew apart. I'm older and wiser and went through a lot of pain, which seems to be a necessary part of growing up. Now I'm less selfish than I used to be and can love someone better. In the meantime, as the song goes, "I Will Survive."

It's interesting to compare Sacramento to San Francisco because they're so close physically and yet so different. The party-line or "thing to say" in the Bay Area is that San Francisco is the *only* place to be and to put down the Valley towns. But I went all over northern California when I decided I wanted to get out of San Francisco and I chose Sacramento. There's no area in all that half of California like that downtown section with its corner grocery stores, the trees, the old houses and funky shops all mixed together with *places to park!* I love to walk around it on warm summer evenings or bicycle it during the day.

MGW: What do you do with your free time?

Thompson: Feeding myself and keeping up the house seems plenty. My 1970 Chevrolet convertible has over 100,000 miles on it and keeping it running is a full-time job. I like to work on it because cars remind me of medicine: they have circulatory systems, blood pressures, hearts and pumps—and internists love to diagnose.

I'm learning a lot about plants and it takes an hour after coming home from work just to water and check on 'em all. I used to lift weights several times a week and did that off and on for years but I quit about four months ago because it was taking so much time and I was so compulsive about it. I haven't lost any friends yet over being skinnier but I suppose I'll be less noticed now when I walk into the bars.

I'm always on call for the office and on my off days a lot of times I'll still return to the office to see someone or meet them in the emergency room. People should realize that even though medical care is expensive one thing they're paying for during the office visit is my availability 24 hours per day. Not many professionals offer that.

MGW: Do you plan to stay in Sacramento awhile?

Thompson: Forever. You can bury me in my backyard. I think some people have been leery about signing on because they're not sure if I'm going to stay in Sacramento. But I'm assuredly going to stay on—I'm tired of moving, and I feel good here.

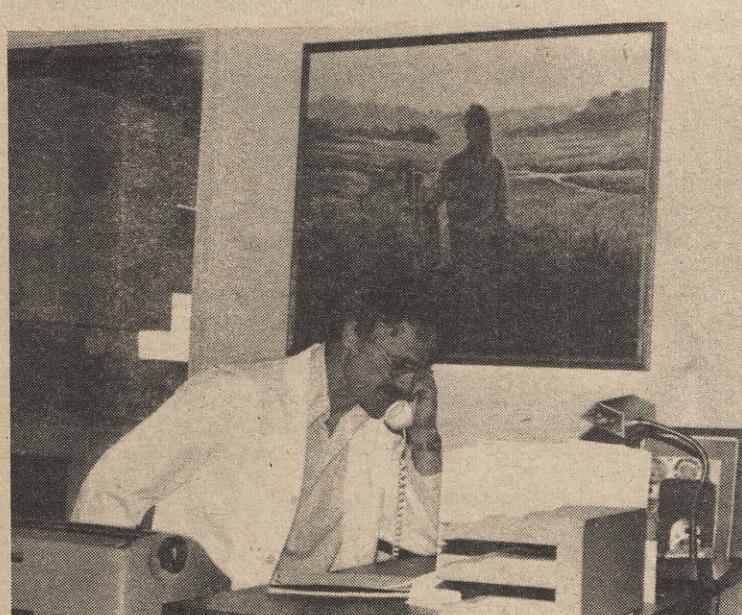
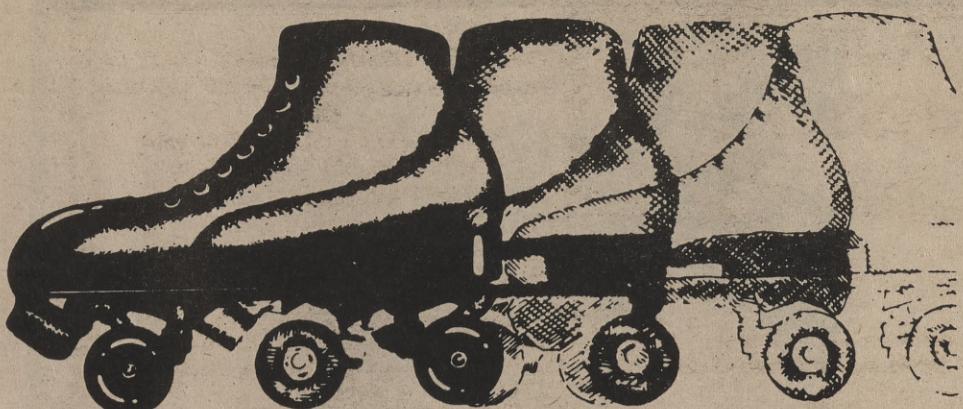


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Travel

by Dan Rundle

Oh, those lazy days of summer! It's a time when most summer vacations have either been completed or at least prepared for, and it's difficult to think seriously about travel plans for the winter months or perhaps next spring. It seems more like a time for rafting down the American River and sharing a six pack or two with friends along the way. Or perhaps it's a getaway weekend to the mountains or to one of the resorts along the increasingly popular Russian River.

For the Sacramento Stars there will be plans to be made for the Vancouver Cup Softball Tournament over Labor Day weekend — assuming that funds can be raised to help defray transportation costs to Vancouver. I would hope that they will have your financial support because, after all, they are representing our community. By the way, the Vancouver area is a delightful place to visit, so if you decide to travel up to support the team, I think you will have a fantastic time. Across the Strait of Georgia from Vancouver on Vancouver Island is Victoria, one of my favorite places to visit. Because of its relatively mild climate, it is a gardener's delight and home of the world famous floral displays of Butchart Gardens. Victoria is also very British, so no visit would be complete without having tea and crumpets in the afternoon at the stately old Empress Hotel.

In the future I hope to write more about travel in British Columbia and the Canadian Rockies. Actually I am willing to research and write about any travel destination that might be of interest to the community, so if you have any ideas or suggestions please let me know. Also, I would be willing to run a question and answer column once in awhile if you have any travel related questions.

In the meantime, I leave you this month with the following prayer. Various versions have been passed around in the travel industry, so now with a couple of minor modifications, I send it on to you.

The Tourist's Prayer

Heavenly Father, look down on us, your humble, obedient tourist servants, who are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, mailing postcards, buying souvenirs and walking around in drip-dry underwear.

We beseech You, our Lord, to see that our plane is not hijacked, our luggage is not lost, and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed.

Protect us from surly and unscrupulous taxi drivers, avaricious porters and unlicensed English-speaking guides.

Give us this day Divine guidance in the selection of our hotels and cruise ships, that we may find our reservations honored, our rooms made up, and someone who understands what lots of ice means.

We pray that the telephones work and that the operator speaks our language, and that there is no mail waiting from home which would force us to cancel the rest of our trip.

Lead us, Dear Lord, to good, inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb, the waiters friendly, and the wine included in the price of the meal.

Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currencies we do not understand; forgive us for undertipping out of ignorance and for overtippling out of fear.

Make the native love us for what we are and not for what we can contribute to their insatiable economy.

Grant us the strength to visit the museums, the cathedrals, the palaces, and the castles listed as "musts" in the guide books.

And if per chance we skip an historic monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us, for our flesh is weak.

Dear God, keep us from shopping sprees and protect us from bargains we do not need or can't afford; lead us not into temptation for we know not what we do.

Almighty Father, keep our lovers from looking at foreign men/women and from comparing them to us; save them from making fools of themselves in cafes and nightclubs; above all, please do not forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

And when our voyage is over, and when we return to our homes, grant us the favor of finding someone who will look at our slides and movies, and listen to our stories, so that our lives as tourists will not have been in vain.

Amen

Film Reviews

The Empire Strikes Back

Reviewed by Collin Clark

The grand sequel to *Star Wars* promised for 1978 is at last with us, and it is a winner. We still don't really know what is going on or why, (it is George Lucas's private myth, after all), but we are given to understand more clearly that we have really come in in the middle of it all. Lucas envisions a series of ten or so films, all under the series title *Star Wars*, of which *The Empire Strikes Back* is part five. The original film, part four, will have its own title as well. Whether Lucas's energy and finances, not to mention the audience's patience, will last out the necessary span of years remains to be seen. It will also be fascinating to watch how he can film the three earlier episodes with actors who will have aged ten years or more from when he first engaged them. A time warp, perhaps.

Alec Guinness died the first time out, so he is back only in brief cameo visions. The droids are a little less cute, and Chewy's role is more meaty. Carrie Fisher as Princess Leia looks as unattractive as ever. Has anyone else noticed that there are almost no women in this futureworld? George Lucas seems to have repealed ERA. Luke Skywalker has traded in his karate coat for a proper flight suit, but his acting is still about as exciting as a wooden stick. This time, however, we are treated to a view of Mark Hamill's chunky little body working out in a tanktop.

Acting honors in episode five go to Harrison Ford as Han Solo. His part has more to it as the loveable rogue, the eternal space cowboy, and he gets down into it with gusto. At a moment of crisis when Leia confesses, "I love you," he replies characteristically, "I know," (not "I love you, too"). There is an arresting scene of male bonding in the fashion of Redford and Newman between Han and Luke. Han has again saved Luke's life and they stare longingly at each other for a moment with affection too strong to be expressed in words.

The Empire Strikes Back introduces at least two new characters of note. A delightful Muppet-like creature, voice by Frank Oz, is the Jedi Master who reluctantly takes Luke on for his final training. Luke drops out in mid-semester, so presumably the Muppet will be back. Also, Billy Dee Williams capably plays an old friend of Solo's, ("We go way back"), and since he is still in the control cabin at picture's end we will probably see more of him in future episodes.

You will again be thrilled and awed by the technical effects. They are handled with even more sophistication and realism this time. There are snow storms and swamps, vast ships and monsters. The world is a little less high-tech. Stuff gets dirty and breaks down more. But the enormous walking fortresses, the galloping waterbuffalo-ostiches, and the visions of machines and worlds in that galaxy far away still overshadow the human characters. Stay for the full credits at the end of the film and you will realize how many minions George Lucas requires to bring all this off, and why it takes so long.

There is a little less gratuitous violence in this film, but not much less. There are still an ample number of troops zapped to atoms and ships exploded to smoke. The sound track is particularly effective, with things whooshing in over our heads and sets clanking or burbling away from the back of the theater. John William's music seems to have been just recycled; no new major themes were detected.

The Empire struck hard this time, and at picture's end Han Solo is out of action in a very solid way, Luke Skywalker is on the road to becoming the bionic man, and we have learned something surprising about his parentage. But the force is still with us. Even at a stiff \$5 tab, in a packed, sweltering moviehouse which seems to have no air circulation, cool or otherwise, this is the finest movie sequel since *The Bride of Frankenstein* of 1935. You must let the myth of George Lucas into your life once again.

(Continued on pg. 14)

The Dedicated Diner



The Ancient Moose Saloon & Wild West Bar B Que

The Ancient Moose Saloon & Wild West Bar B Que
450 Bercut (I-5 at Richards Blvd.) 446-3012

by Laurence Press

The country and western atmosphere that promises tangy barbecued ribs, down-home cornbread, and good steaks is, at the Ancient Moose, mostly a shuck. For this place, in spite of the million or so dollars spent building it a couple of years back, is a loser, and an expensive one at that.

Over the years I've been back again and again, usually talked into it by friends there on business, but not much has changed. Entering through a weathered wood boardwalk and into a reception room dominated by stuffed moose heads, the bar with its stage is straight ahead. While you wait for a table in the reception lobby, you can sit in a too-low couch or look at the old framed photographs bolted to the wall. The bar is well placed for music: live country and western can be found there most nights. Like the bar, the restaurant is very dark. Red and brown carpeting, round tables, booths, and old mining and trapping equipment festooning the walls and the heavy timber construction are reminiscent of a barn.

The dinner menu covers the basics of western food—barbecued meat and chicken, steaks, and prime rib. A fish or two is scribbled on the blackboard. Dinners include a salad bar or single bowl of soup. Actually, the salad bar is not bad. It has the standard romaine and iceberg lettuce and shredded red cabbage salad, but also fresh spinach, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, bacon-bits, cheese, and more. But, though watermelon is included, it really need not be flavored by onions, as it was one recent evening. Dressings are ordinary, though the Blue Cheese was thick and had generous amounts of cheese.

Entrees are the letdown. Once I ordered barbecued beef ribs, which if sensitively treated, are one of my favorites. But these were a mockery of the real thing—they'd been boiled, put on the plate, and liberally doused with bottled barbecue sauce, and served cold. Accompanying these sorry ribs was a bowl of gummy pilaf, which comes with almost everything. It's somewhat like Rice-a-Roni, but always served cold. A soggy baked potato can be ordered at 95¢ extra.

Barbecued chicken had been baked first, but it too was doused too liberally with the same barbecue sauce. It was just barely warm.

Red snapper almandine—one of the daily specials—consisted of two small filets. The all-too-few almonds were chunks rather than slivers, and the butter had burned. But the broccoli spear that came with it was cooked just right—bright green, just a bit crunchy at the center. The fish another time was offered grilled, when it tasted strong and too fishy. In addition it had an off-flavor of meat that had probably been cooked on the same grate.

The rest of the entrees are about the same, deficient in quality, quantity, or both. Beef is (except the ribs) a bit better than the rest. Real buffalo (from near Gilette, Wyoming, according to the menu) is often overcooked and tough.

Desserts offered here include chocolate mousse, mud pie, and ice cream. The mud pie is average. The mousse, however, lacked much chocolate flavor. If this mousse is a guide, chocolate isn't an important part of chocolate mousse. Actually, the extremely sweet and fine textured corn-bread served with dinner is so sweet that it makes a fine dessert, rather like cake.

The wine list is perhaps the best part of the menu. It's got a fair number of good California varietals from Callaway, Firestone, and others. A few European wines are thrown in as well. Descriptions are fair, prices are reasonable for a restaurant.

The service can make or break a restaurant if the food is at least all right. It can sometimes even redeem a restaurant whose food isn't very good.

At the Ancient Moose, however, it doesn't. The restaurant is sometimes woefully understaffed. At best, the staff is slow though anxious to please. Sometimes it is forgetful—not enough silverware, no bread, coupled with the question, "Is everything all right?" Maybe this kind of service is characteristic only when I'm there. But I doubt it, and hope it can be improved.

I don't mind putting up (sometimes) with one or several imperfections in an eatery. But I mind putting up with it here, since the prices are outrageous for the quantity and quality served. Dinner prices range from about eight to eleven dollars. With wine, tax, and tip included, plan on about twelve dollars per person. Lunches are almost as much. I've spent as much as eight dollars at the Ancient Moose for a lunch worth about four. All in all, this restaurant is probably good for a lover of boiled beef ribs and bottled barbecue sauce, someone waiting for the live music, or someone who doesn't care what is served.

Just Desserts

A note from San Francisco. The Neon Chicken (18th near Castro) was once a poultry shop, and serves beef and fish as well as chicken. Soups are homemade and good. Morsels of pork tenderloin in vermouth was tasty and tender. The wine bar upstairs is decorated beautifully with painted and real curtains. Table games help you pass the time waiting to eat. The rear dining room looks out onto an intimate ferny glade. A good place, both for food and atmosphere.

Art

The Northern California Women's Art Festival will be held on August 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th at the Arts & Crafts Building, Sonoma County Fairground, Santa Rosa, California. This year's Festival will include a Crafts Fair, to be held in a separate building. The opening reception will be held on August 14th from 6:00-9:00 p.m., and all are invited to attend.

The work of over 150 women artists will be on display, representing many different styles and concerns. Some of the works of prominent California lesbian artists will be included. This

Festival, presented by the California Women's Art Guild, is in its fourth year—a real accomplishment! Beautiful silk screened T-shirts designed by Noreen Scully featuring the 1980 Women's Art Festival logo and design are available by sending a check or money order for \$6.00 (plus \$1.00 for postage and handling) to the California Women's Art Guild, P.O. Box 496, Forestville, CA 95436. Please indicate size needed (Small, Medium, Large or Extra Large) and style wanted (French Cut, Regular, or Tank Top). Please allow two weeks for delivery.

Showcase Calls for Songwriters

Sacramento Songwriters Showcase is holding open auditions for songwriters and musicians to perform their original compositions in concert for the Showcase. Those chosen by audition will perform during the upcoming fall season of concerts to be held at the Old Eagle Theatre.

The Sacramento Songwriters Showcase is a non-profit arts organization working for the promotion and development of songwriters and composers.

For scheduling and further information on auditions, call Martin Cohen, Showcase Director, at 456-3911, by September 1. Admission to the audition is free.

August Playreadings

Theatre Rhinoceros continues its Summer Playreading Festival on Saturday, August 2nd at 3 P.M. with CONVERSATIONS WITH MYSELF by Kevin Barry.

On the following Saturday, August 9th at 3 P.M., three new one-act plays will be read: DINOSAURS by C.D. Arnold, IN A GARDEN OF CUCUMBERS by Cal Yeomans, and GAME by Charlie Hufford.

Concluding the series on August 16th at 3 P.M. will be Ross H. Jones' MANEUVERS, a backroom comedy.

Theatre Rhinoceros is located in the Goodman Building, 1115 Geary Street, San Francisco. Admission for the playreadings is \$1.00. Call 776-1848 for information; reservations are not necessary.

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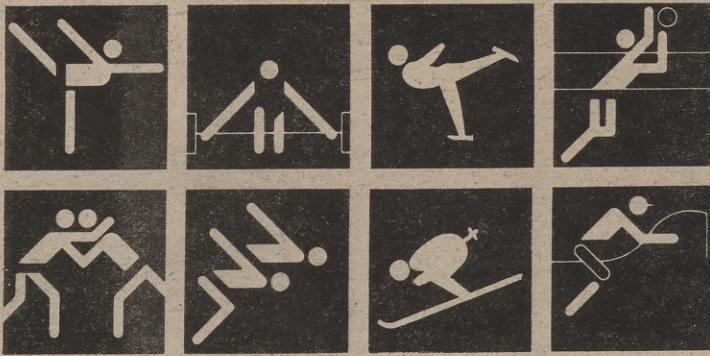
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August, 1980 'MOM' . . . GUESS WHAT! Page 13



Sports Sports Sports

Stars Slugging Way to Vancouver

by Paul Coke

In their last home game of the 1980 season, the Sacramento Stars came away 13-4 winners over the **Giants** from San Francisco. Thought by many to be crippled irreparably by the loss of five starting players from the team within the last three weeks, the Stars instead have lost only one game during that time. One of those wins was perhaps the Stars' best-played game of the year, a 10-0 drubbing of the Bunkhouse. Chuck Nash pitched the shutout, a fairly uncommon occurrence in slowpitch softball. Superlative defensive work by Rich Findley, Dave Jimenez, and Greg Rasberry, powerful hitting by Rich Findley, Mike Miller, Carlton Jasper, and Paul Coke, and Nash's pitching combined to produce a near-perfect day for the Stars.

The City League: For the third year in a row, the Stars captured second place in the city league championships. All of the championship games were marked by excellent sportsmanship and a pervasive sense of fun and enjoyment—elements that sometimes have been lacking in

the Stars' 1980 season.

Vancouver, cont.: Memories of how well the June 27-28 Sacramento-Vancouver games went are still fresh in the minds of all those who participated and many who watched. But something else is also on the minds of many, and it concerns an event yet to happen: the softball championships slated for Labor Day Weekend in Vancouver, to which the Stars have been invited by the Vancouver team (as an expression of gratitude for the hospitality extended to the visiting British Columbians while they were in Sacramento.)

One thing, of course, is needed to get the Stars to Vancouver: money for transportation and lodging expenses. There have been two fundraisers already to help raise money to send the Stars to Vancouver, and more are slated. Two dates for all Stars' supporters to mark on their calendars are August 10, when Pat Montclair will be hosting a Tea Dance and Auction for the team at the Hide and Seek at 2:00 pm; and August 15, when the Stars will host a \$2.00 (door charge) party. The team is planning to prepare finger food and also will hold the drawing for the Vancouver trip that night. The team also has tentative plans for other fundraisers, including a T-shirt auction and chili feed.

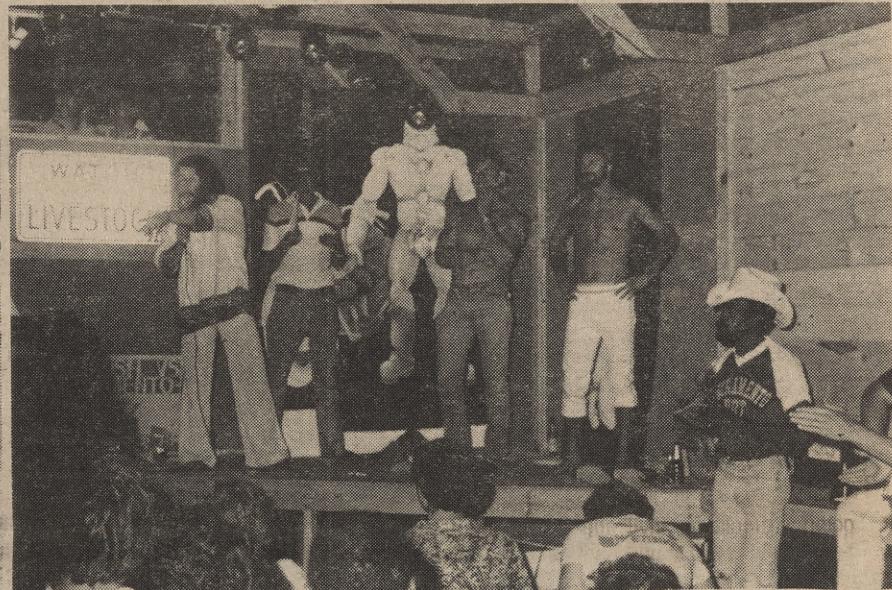


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	vs. INCREDIBLE EDIBLES
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AUG 17th Special All Star Event - Don't Miss It!

AUG 24th Awards Picnic with Fun and Gaytity—
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Fundraising Auction held at Chaps raised funds for the Stars to travel to Vancouver.

Murder in Texas — Affects Sacramentan

Editor's Note: Stephen Schwichow, who recently moved to Sacramento from Houston, sent a copy of the following letter to **Mom... Guess What!** The letter originally was sent to the **Houston Post** (which Schwichow describes as "liberal by Texas standards"), and, to Schwichow's surprise, was printed in the **Post's** "Sound Off" section on 7/18/80. **MGW** felt Schwichow's letter bore reproducing because it highlights an issue about which many Sacramento gay people are complacent—homophobic violence directed against gay people. Sacramento's gay community has been unusually fortunate in that comparatively few such incidents have occurred here—but with such fortune often comes a complacency bred of equal parts good luck and ignorance. Although Schwichow's letter is directly critical of Houston specifically and Texas generally, such attacks can and do occur in every area of the United States. It is worthwhile—and even necessary, unfortunately—to be reminded of this from time to time. **MGW** intends to keep its readers informed of further developments in the Fred Paez murder case, since the ramifications of the legal decisions eventually handed down in Houston will reach well beyond Texas state lines.

Fred Paez was shot and killed early Saturday morning, June 28, 1980, by an off-duty Houston police officer who said he was attempting to arrest Paez. According to the Houston police homicide division's statement, prepared by Detective W.L. Young, Officer K.M. McCoy was out of uniform when Paez approached him outside the Best Delivery Service building. Young said Paez suggested that McCoy and another off-duty police officer, J.A. Cain, go with him to one side of the building. When the men did so, Paez allegedly touched officer McCoy, who pulled his police identification and told Paez he was under arrest. McCoy then turned Paez toward a vehicle and had him put his hands on the car to be searched. According to Young, McCoy had his pistol in one hand and Paez reached back and grabbed the .45-caliber service pistol. After a short struggle, the pistol discharged and killed Paez. Officer Cain was nearby but was not involved in the shooting. The case is currently under investigation both by the homicide division and the Ham's County District Attorney's office.

Several findings pertinent to the case have since emerged in the Houston newspapers and were forwarded to Steven Schwichow from Steve Shifflet, former president of the Gay Political Caucus. The officer who killed Fred Paez used a .45-caliber pistol but was trained only in the use of the .38. According to the Assistant Police Chief, John Bales, the practice of carrying a gun other than the one on which the officer is trained is very common; once the rookie officer has completed his one year probation. This news created such an outrage that the HPD has announced it will institute a 6-month interval re-qualification program for all officers.

And, according to Mr. Arthur B. Alphin, who has an engineering degree in firearms design, has taught pistol classes at Rice University, and has a Master Pedigree from the Nat'l Rifle Association, it is impossible for officer McCoy accidentally to have fired the gun. There are three distinct steps to firing a .45: (1) loading the weapon; (2) releasing the safety; and (3) firing the weapon.

The FBI is also investigating.

Attention: Letter to the Editor

It's time I said good-bye to Texas.

My father was a Texan. I was raised to believe that Texas was the next best thing to heaven. After living three years in Houston, I discovered that the opposite was true. One need not die to experience hell; one need only be a minority person living in Houston.

I personally experienced Texas hospitality when I was jumped by three River Oaks teenagers outside a Montrose gay bar. I was lucky. They didn't use pipes on me the way they had with the man who was attacked an hour before I was. Although they were summoned, the police never did show up to help that poor man. In my case, the police actually came to the bar to investigate. Of course, during the half hour we waited those nice boys had the chance to beat up another person. Oh well, boys will be boys.

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I lost a friend last week, Fred Paez. The fact that I now live in Sacramento, CA in no way diminishes my anguish or my anger. I haven't the slightest doubt that justice will once again be mocked in Texas. After all, in a city where it is alright to drown a young Chicano, or kill a young black man who "threatens" the police with a bible, it must certainly be permissible to kill just another "queer".

Fred died of more than just a policeman's bullet. Fred was killed by a system. A system that says cops can do no wrong, so long as the person being killed isn't a WASP. I suppose it's fortunate that "stoning" is no longer popular; otherwise the churches would have to provide extra parking areas so that their congregations could leave their rock-laden wheelbarrows outside while they sit self-righteously inside getting "right" with their god.

I'm glad I don't live in Texas anymore. I'm glad I don't have to be around all the closeted gay men and women who stay snuggly in their homes contributing nothing to the movement, while a few of us work and sometimes die, trying to claim the Constitutional rights that should be ours by virtue of our citizenship. I'm glad I don't have to be around all the "hypochristians" who wish me dead and pay their cops to do their dirty work. Yes, I'm glad I don't live in Texas anymore.

Good-bye Texas. I shake the dust from my feet as I leave you. My only fear now is for the safety of my friends. It has become apparent to me that the symbol of the "lone star" could as easily be a "swastika", which is otherwise referred to as the "twisted cross".

Stephen C. Schwichow

Film Reviews Airplane — Cancel My Ticket

(Continued from pg. 12)

by Michael Frost

Occasionally, a new movie is released that catches the fancy of the the-theater-going public, and word of mouth makes it an instant hit. "Airplane" is a movie of this sort. It is a satire on movies in general and disaster movies in particular. The production's main target is the series of airplane-in-distress movies of recent years.

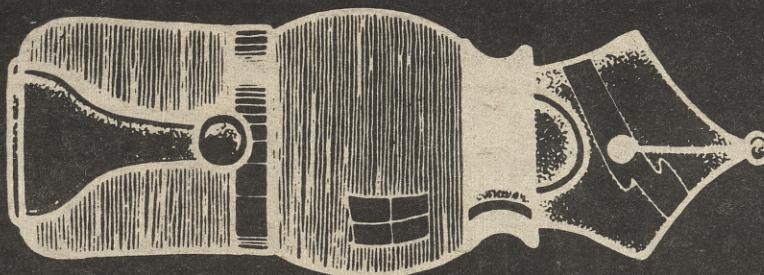
Perhaps I had heard too much about "Airplane" and was therefore expecting more than the film was able to deliver. Movies such as "Young Frankenstein" or "Murder by Death" are funny, but "Airplane" is better described as silly.

This film does have some very funny moments while poking the ribs of other movies. The opening scene of a plane's high tail cutting through the clouds to tune of the 'attack' music from "Jaws" is good for a laugh. Stars Robert Hays and Julie Hagerty do a wonderful parody of the beach scene in "From Here To Eternity", making light of that famous scene, as well as love scenes in all other love stories.

The plain silliness comes in scenes such as the take off of "Saturday Night Fever," featuring the two main characters again. It is well done to the point where the girl swings her dancing partner high into the air, he disappears, falls among the tables and bar patrons, and returns to the dance floor without as much as a wrinkle in his white disco suit. Throughout this entire scenario two women wearing Girl Scout uniforms are having a seemingly senseless, and (too) brutal brawl.

The film also features Lloyd Bridges, as an airport executive who has picked "the wrong week" to quit smoking, drinking, using dope and sniffing glue. Robert "Elliot Ness" Stack has an uncharacteristic part as a trouble-shooting former pilot, and an ex-adversary of Robert Hays, who is a passenger trying to land the plane when the crew gets sick. Stack attempts to "talk the plane down" by radio. I never realized he could be so good with comedy.

All in all, "Airplane" is a funny movie, but looking back I'd rather have my \$4.50 back. Then I could just wait until it is on the Wednesday Night Movie, and probably enjoy it more.



Write!

MGW welcomes letters to "WRITE!" If at all possible, your letters should be typed, double-spaced. We will not publish anonymous letters, but will withhold names on request. Letters reflect only the opinions of their authors, not necessarily the views of MGW or its staff. Address letters to "WRITE!" MGW, Box 8170, Sacramento, CA 95818.

Member Explains Court System

Dear Editor:

LADY GARNET PRESENTS has been working in Sacramento for the last three years and has given three balls and many successful functions for Sacramento. We are willing to support and recognize those activities which are of an official nature.

We of **LADY GARNET PRESENTS** have registered with the Secretary of State and, with the help of our attorney Elaine Wallace, have written our Constitution and By-laws and have incorporated (977077).

The court system belongs to and was formed for the betterment of the Gay Community, not for a selected few. We want to give it back to the Community to use and profit from.

I, Lady Garnet, was personally designated by Billy de Frank as the first Incorporated Court in this area as the Legal Court. We have done everything according to the laws of the State of California and claim the Grandfather Clause which California keeps active.

LADY GARNET PRESENTS will remain a separate organization, and has taken this action to protect the court system.

GARNET AND ROSES IMPERIAL EMPIRE INCORPORATED is the legal Court of Sacramento and will have the first legal Coronation (to be announced).

I, Lady Garnet, hope this letter explains to a lot of people what we have done and will continue to do.

In Love, Peace and Unity, I remain,
Lady Garnet, President

An Open Letter to the Davis Gay Community:

To those members of our community who were able to help in the Davis Gay Rights Campaign, we say thank you very much. Ours is an ongoing struggle for civil and human rights. We have really just begun. And we can't expect to win the first time around.

The defeat of the Gay Rights Initiative has left some of us a little apprehensive about being open. Basic freedoms such as the freedom of speech are not ours while we face threats of losing our jobs and housing.

Davis Citizens for Human Rights is still here. We will stay here and continue our work to secure human rights for lesbians and gay men. Every time lesbians and gay men speak out we take one more step toward eliminating ignorance; we take one more step toward making our community a place where we can live without fear.

So, consider this an open invitation to contact us with ideas for future events, or to bring problems to us. We're here to advocate for all lesbians and gay men in Davis.

Elisabeth L. Morgan Mary E. Cox
Anmarie Wagstaff Carol L. Silva
Charles A. Litzinger Barbara Wezelman
Carolyn Langenkamp

Sacramento Gays Under 21

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform your readers about our organization, **SACRAMENTO GAYS UNDER 21**. Basically, we try to offer a place for young gay persons to meet in a relaxed, non-threatening environment. We try to give much-needed support to young women and men who are ostracized from family and so-called "friends". A rap group allows time for discussion of problems that exist in our lives. Also, we help prepare our members for "coming out" to family, friends, and hopefully, the rest of the world.

Aside from the serious business, we like to have fun. We plan social events such as our recent trip to San Francisco for the Gay Freedom Day Parade. Our upcoming event is our First Anniversary celebration, a potluck to be held on Saturday, August 23. All members—past and present—as well as persons interested in joining our group are welcome to attend.

A last thought. We have reached but a few of our young gay brothers and sisters. Please spread the word about our group to all that you think would benefit from it. Our meetings are on Saturdays, 12:00 Noon, at The Way Station, 1403 I Street. For more information, contact me at 447-1171.

Jeff Ramos, Secretary, Gays Under 21

Do You Understand the Court System?

Dear Editor:

We are pleased to announce that we have planned an Informational Party for August 28th, 8 p.m., at the Hide and Seek. As Emperor and Empress of the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire, Inc., we wish to keep the community informed of our activities. Some people do not know much about the "Court" or its purpose in our community.

We have been in existence for over seven years and have consistently been honored for our community service and dedication by other courts similar to ours throughout the state. We actively support other gay organizations in Sacramento as we firmly believe that the court system belongs to and was formed for the betterment of the Gay Community.

Our Informational Party is for the purpose of talking to those who do not know much about us yet and to have an entertaining evening. We have planned live entertainment throughout the evening and complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Members of the Court and past Emperors and Empresses will be present to discuss our organizational structure, activities, history, registration and incorporation.

Brochures and flyers will also be available. Everyone is invited and anyone may join the Court. Join us August 28th to find out more about our organization. We'd love to share our enthusiasm with you.

Respectfully,
Emperor Tom

Empress Tina

Bagpipe Band Organizes

Dear Editor:

The Clan Keith is a non-stock, non-profit corporation duly created under the laws of the State of California organized for charitable and educational purposes to perpetuate the traditions and customs of a common Scottish heritage. Among the activities for which the corporation is organized is the sponsoring of a clan bagpipe band. All contributions to the corporation are tax deductible under IRS Code 501 (c) (3) which would include pipe band expenses. Because the clan has just been recognized, it does not have a pipe band (P/B). I would like to organize one that would be primarily staffed by gay people who are of Scottish heritage and/or are interested in things Scottish. P/B's exist in California at present and attend gatherings where they compete for trophies and cash prizes. Some of the bands are scheduled to go to Scotland next year as part of their activities.

In order to have the ideal P/B, there should be 20 pipers, 10 drummers (4 tenor, 4 snare, 2 bass) and a drum major. I will act as band manager until someone could be trained. Current ability to play the pipes is not necessary as a pipe school could be established. It is not difficult to learn the pipes as there are only 9 notes and drumming is relatively simple as there are but a few standard beats. What makes a P/B superior is formation, marching, style, and appearance, qualities that should appeal to gay people.

The range of activities and opportunities for travel are endless. Most pipe bands attend about six gatherings a year somewhere around the United States and Canada and usually one international gathering. In most cases, transportation and lodging are paid by the gathering management. The International Year of the Scot, 1981, in Edinburgh is slated to be one of the grandest in modern history. If a P/B were to be quickly formed, it is quite possible that it could attend the 1981 gathering. Practice would be the deciding element on attending.

Interest, willingness to proudly wear the Keith tartan & kilt, and desire to create a truly unique organization are about all the qualifications to be a member of a P/B. One does not have to be Scottish or be a musician to be a member. Official membership in the Clan Keith would be arranged through Sir Ian Keith, Lord Kintore, for those who would be interested.

The P/B would be headquartered at Dunnottar Hall, Woodland, California and membership could be from anywhere in California but people living in Sacramento, Woodland, Davis, Winters, Dixon area would find it the more convenient to attend practice.

If anyone is interested in viewing a P/B in operation, there are two gatherings scheduled in the near future. The annual gathering of the Scottish Society of the Monterey Peninsula is scheduled for July 26th at the campus of the Monterey College. This gathering is considered to be one of the more elegant of the California

gatherings. The other more comprehensive in scope is the Santa Rosa games scheduled at the county fair grounds for the weekend of August 30-31. This is the largest of the games in California and the Pacific Coast. I will be staffing the Clan Keith pavilion at both of these events and interested individuals may contact me there. I have met quite a few gay kilts at these gatherings and I am sure that a gay P/B is a solid possibility. If interested Scots or Scottish sympathizers cannot meet me at these gatherings, I can be contacted at the address below. Anyone interested should not be discouraged if they are not pipers or drummers or Scottish, as interest and enthusiasm are the most important ingredients.

Yours aye:

James F. Harvey-Keith
Dunnottar Hall
515 First Street
Woodland, California 95695
916/666-1100

Successful Event

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the **WOMEN-OVER-35**, who brought to the Sacramento community the 'Summer Fantasy' dance on June 20, 1980, we wish to thank the Women's Gay community for supporting us, by their attendance at our first big community event.

The dance was financially successful and very well attended.

Sincerely,
'Women Over-35'

CHRA Thanks Bob & Walter

Dear Editor:

We would like to publicly acknowledge the continuing fund-raising support we have gotten from Robert Hoyos and Walter Coburn of the Mercantile Saloon.

On January 13, 1980, Bob held a taco feed at the Mercantile in conjunction with the March on Sacramento. That event turned over \$500.00 in donations that were split evenly between CHRA and the March on Sacramento Committee.

On May 31st and June 1st, Walter Coburn sold sloppy joes at the Mercantile. This event was responsible for another \$90.20 donation.

Again on June 22, Bob held a taco feed, this time in conjunction with Sacramento's Gay Pride Parade and Festival. Donations from this event came to \$200.00.

Walter is planning an afternoon feed each Sunday at the Mercantile through the rest of the summer. We urge each of you to participate, AND TO THANK THESE TWO FOR THEIR EFFORTS! The menu will change each week. Again, all profits are being contributed to CHRA.

We truly appreciate these efforts, especially because they keep happening. Not only do these events continue providing us with money, but also they keep people aware of our organization and its ongoing financial needs. It is people like Bob and Walter that allow us to keep working for each of you.

There is a lot of work involved in each of these events. Almost all of it is done by these two men on their own time...because they care enough to do something. We are grateful! We think you should be too.

Alan L. Robertson, Executive Director,
California Human Rights Advocates

Youth Expresses Feelings

Dear Editor:

I first came across your paper in January, and I must express how much I appreciate "Mom... Guess What!" It was here that I found out about the "Gays Under 21" rap group, the most important happening in my life.

My sexuality is not something I actually chose. My emotions just didn't agree with those of others. I was never molested by anyone nor was I ever raised around any known homosexuals. I've always known I would be gay or at least bisexual ever since I can remember, but these feelings naturally came on strong at about eleven. I've read many books, and articles, whether pro or anti-gay.

A gay teenager faces many difficult problems. Peer pressure must be the worst, the many snide remarks about homosexuality can leave a sense of guilt on a gay child's conscience. We would all like to be totally honest with our parents but are afraid it will hurt us in the long run. I told my mother last fourth of July, independence wasn't what I was after. She told

me it was a phase and I would grow out of it; I don't think so.

Seeing your clever title, I picked up your paper and inside an article about the "Gays Under 21" caught my eye. Your paper opened up a whole new world for me. The "Gays Under 21" did not teach me to be gay, that I already was. They helped me deal with being what I am. Without their help I would still be in my closet ready to burst.

Like most cities, Sacramento has few things for those under 21 and it's even worse if you're under 18. Skating, on Thursday nights, won't let anyone under 18 in and all they do is skate. Bo Jangle's loose policy that say no one under 18 allowed but who checks. These two should allow anyone in who wants in. Skating does not allow any liquor and smoking is only allowed in the Smoker's lounge, what harm is there. Bo Jangles is more of a restaurant and dance floor with a small bar.

I now attend "Gays Under 21" regularly and we need more people to join. We need people who need help and those who care to share their coming out to those who haven't. We're planning many activities and are going to start having a voice in the gay community.

Anyone who wishes for information about our group can ring "The Way Station" at 447-1171.

Thank you for giving me this space to voice my opinions to the gay community young and old.

Eric Andrews, age 15

SDA Church Backs Kinship Kampmeeting

Gay Seventh-day Adventists and friends will be attending a summer conference, called Kinship Kampmeeting, to be held Aug. 5-10 at a high desert resort outside of Phoenix, Arizona.

The Kampmeeting is modeled after the traditional summer camp meetings held every year by many Adventist congregations, but is sponsored by S.D.A. Kinship, the international organization of gay Seventh-day Adventists and friends.

The General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which has heretofore not been supportive of gays in the church, has not only recognized the existence of the Kinship group, but has agreed to allow three religion professors from Adventist colleges and three Adventist pastors to attend and participate in the Kinship Kampmeeting.

One of these pastors is the first woman minister ever to serve an Adventist congregation. The General Conference is underwriting some of the expenses of bringing the six theologians from the east coast. The General Conference is reportedly hoping that this meeting will be the beginning of an ongoing dialogue between gays and the S.D.A. Church.

Several gay Seventh-day Adventists from Northern California will be attending the Kampmeeting. Anyone interested in more information about S.D.A. Kinship and its soon-to-be organized Bay Area and Northern California chapter may call Venn Schlenker, Jr. at (916) 447-1093, or write P.O. Box 181, Sacramento, CA 95801.

Women Stress Alternatives Offers Group

Eight week group for lesbian women at Women Stress Alternatives. Issues: drug dependence, alcoholism, family, relationship, stress reduction, personal contracting, etc. Eight week commitment, every Friday evening. Groups approximately 3 hours in length. \$35 for the eight weeks. Pre-group interviews. Yvonne Frazier 448-2951. Limit 10 women. Starting late August.

Chamber Musicians to Appear at Victorian Museum

The Montara Chamber Players, four young Bay Area musicians, will present a piano chamber music concert at The American Victorian Museum, in historic Miner's Foundry, Nevada City, California, at 8 p.m., August 2, 1980.

The group, Janice McIntosh (violin), Andrew Berdahl (viola), Carolyn McIntosh (cello), and Nevada City's Lynn Schugren (piano), will present works by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Schumann.

Tickets and reservations are available at the Museum, 325 Spring Street (916) 265-5804, or Osborn/Woods, 244 Commercial Street, Nevada City (916) 265-2644.

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Clinical Psychologist

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1281 47th Avenue
Sacramento, CA
95831

Handicap-Able

by Tony Martin

I seldom like to repeat myself but there comes a time when I think it is necessary. Once again I sat up all night when I would rather be sleeping. Once again I listened to someone crying because he felt that there was never going to be anyone in his life. The conversation was about mental illness and tricking. Strange combination, I would have thought two months ago. But after meeting Gary, I have learned that it is not only strange but it is quite common in our society. No just the gay community but the straight community as well. We seem to be a society built upon contradictions. In one breath we say, "support mental health." And yet we turn right around and make it almost impossible for a person who has had this problem to return to the community. We seem to go out of our way to make it difficult for them. I know, for it also happened to me.

I had a nervous breakdown two years ago. It was one of the loneliest times of my life. When I began to regain my footing I looked around for my friends. They were either gone or forever busy. But with the help of the Metropolitan Community Church and its members I made it back. I was one of the lucky ones. I had friends and a pastor who still cared enough to become involved. But there were friends who would no longer speak to me for fear I would need something.

When you undergo an illness such as a nervous breakdown you say a great many things you don't mean. You are at that point of your life both unresponsive and not-responsible.

Gary was almost ready to go out into our community and try to pick up the pieces of his life. But that lasted all of one night. He told me that he had evidently hurt some of his friends while he was ill. He had spoken things which were both unkind and untrue, but he could not remember what they were. We talked for six hours before he finally left. I knew that he was not feeling better so I called his doctor. But the damage had already been done. Gary attempted suicide that night. Not because he didn't feel that anyone cared, but because he felt that his friends could not or would not accept him as a friend.

Well, he is physically fine now but he is back in the hospital. There is no way of knowing when he will be out again but it is doubtful he will try to return to his community in Sacramento. His family has decided to take him up north to start over. That doesn't say much for his friends here, does it?

Since I have been in Gary's shoes I can understand his problem. It is very hard to put your life back together after any mental illness, but it is impossible when you have the people you count on for friendship tripping you up. It would be so much easier for the people like Gary if we would all remember that Mental illness is just that, illness.

There are people in our community who would trip a blind man. But there are also people who would go out of their way to help. Thank God I have many such people to count among my friends. I also have a few of the other kind. It is ironic that one of the most common and popular things should be the one thing that caused Gary to fall. "He had gone out with the purpose of finding someone to share the night with. He hadn't had sex in such a long time and wanted to feel that closeness again. Well, he was at one of our more popular bars when he met someone. He and the man he met seemed to hit it off. They talked and danced for hours. The man had invited Gary to spend the night when the bottom fell out. One of Gary's "friends" saw them dancing and asked if he could join their table. It wasn't long before Gary knew that it was a mistake. He told me that his old friend began to explain in detail all the mean and rotten things Gary had done. Then to top it off he made the statement, "he is mentally ill you know."

Well, the man didn't want to get involved with Gary's problems, so he quickly left. Gary's friend then informed him that he would get even for Gary having hurt him. Gary tried to explain that he was ill and didn't mean anything that he said. He was trying to straighten his life out again and only wanted to be friends. But his friend didn't want any part of it. To him Gary was a sicko, who would be better off locked up. He didn't believe that Gary was ever sick and mental illness was just an excuse.

That was when Gary came to my house. He knows that I am still his friend, but that doesn't help much when he has people like the friend at the bar.

This column does not have an ending for this story. I am still working with Gary and his family. Trying to convince them that not everyone is uncaring. He writes once in a while to let me know that he is trying. But I wonder if we are.

Handicap-Able 486-8176

The Old Eagle Soars into its Second Great Season

The upcoming season, consisting of five plays and a musical revue, was approved today by the OET Board of Directors. According to Robert Irvin, General Manager and Artistic Director, the next season is "committed to a vital new tradition at the OET: sell-out performances of captivating and varied theatre."

Opening September 5 with a gala champagne-buffet performance is a new play cited by the New York Daily News as a "comic masterpiece" - David Mamet's *A Life In the Theatre*. Deemed outstanding by the American Theatre Critics Association, *A Life...* runs the gamut from high drama to sheer corn, portraying the reality as well as the illusion of theatre through the consciousness of two actors whose roles (master/novice) reverse with fascinating results. Best play, '77-78 - Burns Mantle Theatre Yearbook.

Next up, opening October 24 is a Pulitzer Prize-winning play which captured both the Obie Award, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best American Play of the Season: *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-the-Moon Marigolds* by Paul Zindel. Frowzy, acid-tongued Beatrice Hunsdorfer wreaks petty vengeance on all around her in retribution for her unfulfilled life - until her shy, sensitive daughter wins a science prize at school and precipitates a shattering resolution.

Opening December 12 and matching the sparkling spirit of the Holiday season is a delightful and light-hearted musical revue - *Rodgers & Hart - A Celebration*. Sixty-one tunes combine in a festival of song from one of the foremost songwriting teams of the musical stage. The unforgettable music and witty lyrics of such landmark musicals as: *The Boys From Syracuse*, *Pal Joey*, *Babes In Arms*, *By Jupiter* and others will be spotlighted in this joyful "celebration", as crammed-full of tunes as a Christmas stocking!

Devour the Snow, opening January 30 marks a fascinating shift in pace, to that of a courtroom drama... within a local and historical context. Drawn from the harrowing saga of the Donner Party's fateful plight, Abe Polksky's play follows the (actual) trial of Lewis Keseborg - accused grave-robber and more, searching out the private hells through which men will plummet in order to exist. "... a powerful piece of Theatre," the New York Post.

March 20 will be the opening date for an evening made up of *Four One Acts*, an exciting blending of comedy, drama, and various theatrical styles in plays by the foremost playwrights of the 20th Century, including Tennessee Williams and Noel Coward.

Closing the upcoming season is a fresh new translation (by Jean-Claude van Itallie) of Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. Both subtle and moving, this classic play deals with the decline of the Russian aristocracy in poignant and bittersweet terms. Chekhov's metaphor, the country estate of Madame Ranevskaya, famed for its beautiful cherry orchard, is imminently to be lost for taxes. Ironically, it is "saved" by a rich merchant, son of a peasant, who sets his men to felling the trees as the owner departs again for Paris and the fragile promise of a new life. "... a new, faithful, very play-able and gorgeous translation", the New York Post.

The season subscription for these six theatrical events is: \$30.00 Balcony, \$25.00 General Admission, and \$20.00 for Students and Sr. Citizens (I.D. required at the door). Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 PM, and the house will open each night at 8:00 PM.

Season tickets are good for any performance (other than the gala opening) when reservations are made one week in advance by calling the Old Eagle Business office at 916-446-6761. Checks should be made out to The Old Eagle Theatre, Inc., 925 The Embarcadero, Sacramento, CA 95814. Season tickets will be returned by mail.

Standing Room Only

Arts & Entertainment
Editor Kreis Francis

A Coward Loving Cup

by Kreis Francis

He was a man of passion, of genius, of gentleness, of gayness. A man who possessed a rhythm in his living, his loving and in his work. He was, and will always remain "the one note of sanity in a naughty world", probably the most famous homosexual in the Twentieth Century, yet many people do not know his name. He is the man who wrote: "I believe that since my life began, The most I have is just, A talent to amuse." He was, and will always be, Noel Coward.

Though past revues, *Oh Coward!* and *Cowardy Custard*, leave audiences inundated to the pore with Sir Noel's humor and wisdom, the essence of the man justifiably known as The Master is somehow not quite present, not quite...true. Always remaining with these productions is the assumption that the audience knows Coward. A Coward "crowd" is considered sophisticated, rich, a "cut" or two above the rest of the world, familiar with life's little difficulties which can easily be dealt with through masses of monied cynicism.

This concept of Coward is not shared by myself nor my friends and it was with delight and love that we welcomed *Coward In A Cupboard Cup* when the San Francisco-born production visited Sacramento in late June. Appearing in the unlikely setting of a north-area disco named Tuxedo Junction (how Coward would have roared!), this enchanting group of enormously talented people all but exhumed The Master from his resting place on Firefly Hill.

Coward In A Cardboard Cup originated with Scott Rankine who conceived it as a one-man revue. He and co-worker Kirk Frederick attempted the burning of a show but soon realized the slim appeal afforded one-man revues and searched out the talents of Lynn Eldredge and Richard Roemer, who were biding their time hidden within the "B" chorus of *Beach Blanket Babylon*. Numerous Sunday brunches later, after huddling over biographies, sheet music and massive collections of available Coward minutiae, the company emerged with a lovingly shaped production of wit and style which is a superlative tribute not only to Coward the man but also a seduction leading into his music, his concepts of self and, most tellingly, into Noel Coward's very heart—an extraordinary, almost psychic, accomplishment of pure understanding.

Lynn Eldredge possesses "one of those faces" with the capacity for wistful recollection ("If Love Were All") which quickly became unleashed into a deadpan "Mad About The Boy", a song whose dryness and urbanity brought the predominantly gay crowd to near delirium. Her richly textured voice can weep in heavily-throated tones or soar with a strength that belies the use of amplified sound. A beauty to the eye is this woman and one who's lightly-played comedic flair would have pleased Sir Noel immensely.

Richard Roemer's all-American leading-man good looks do not, at first glance, quite appear to belong to the decidedly British demands of the "usual" Coward show, but he quickly and clearly supersedes preconceived notions of Cute Chorus Boy by bringing a clear and gentle focus to "Someday I'll Find You." Roemer possesses an off-the-shoulder comic throwaway in "Nina (from Argentina)" that brings a fuller representation to the material than I have previously seen staged. The company's intent to broaden the appeal of Coward for American audiences is best achieved through Roemer's deft handling of the quick and precise material throughout the revue.

Scott Rankine is, most probably, a reincarnation of Coward. His rolling phrasing, slight incline of the head, devilish gleam in the eye mixes with what is, obviously, his deep and total comprehension of all that Coward implies and intends. "Marvelous Party" is insightful, crisp and spot on, and the plaintive "Never Again" was devastating. Rankine is not necessarily more gifted than the other two but he best conveys the disdainful understanding of man's "common" frailties which Sir Noel wrote into almost every lyric. Above all, Rankine perhaps best understands and possesses that inborn knowledge of life's ironies and eccentricities that makes Noel Coward a poignantly beautiful experience.

Co-writer and director Kirk Frederick has wisely chosen directorial simplicity—a most difficult task to achieve and, when reached as it is in this production, a pleasure to behold. Blocking the

Entertainment at the Plush Room Cabaret

Hotel York's Plush Room Cabaret in San Francisco, which opened last New Year's Eve, is now premiering a major shift in its entertainment booking policy for the summer.

The 200 seat capacity room has thus far booked leading California performers like Sharon McNight, Ruth Hastings and Company, Michael Greer, David Reighn, and Nicholas, Glover & Wray—all winners and nominees in this year's Cabaret Gold Awards. Club owner Russell Cox, during a whirlwind week in New York, has booked Morgana King, Gary Herb's "Straight From Gotham Show", Maxine Weldon and Eartha Kitt for July 24 - August 13. Nancy LaMott, who began her singing career in San Francisco, returns to the city, August 14-24.

May 1st marked the one year anniversary of

the opening of the Hotel York, which has become "the place to stay" for visitors to San Francisco. The Plush Room Cabaret, which cost \$250,000 to build, adds to a major investment in making the hotel a totally entertaining environment for its guests. Among the cabaret's features are a 20 x 40 foot stained glass skylight, a 22 karat 14' stage frame salvaged from an old cathedral, the original mahogany bar from its World War II speakeasy days, and the sound system from the now defunct Macambo nightclub.

The cabaret was originally named "The Empire Plush Room" because the hotel was built in 1922 as the Empire Hotel. Alfred Hitchcock's movie "Vertigo" was filmed on the property. After years of operation as a residential hotel, the property changed hands two years ago, was closed down, underwent a million dollar plus renovation, and reopened as the Hotel York last May.

Most of it Was Really Quite Good

by Kreis Francis

There is no excuse I can find for a production being presented to a paying audience when that production is obviously not ready to be seen. THE MITZI GAYNOR SHOW which played at Music Circus to ambivalent houses the week of June 23 was living testimony that the days of "formula" are fast disappearing...and good riddance! What was once cute, precocious, and...well...Mitzi, no longer works in this day of audiences educated to the ways and means of competent writing, directing and choreography.

Simply put, Tony Charmoli, Mitzi's director and choreographer, has picked 10 dancers to back Mitzi, when, in point of fact, only 4 of those cute, clone-like numbers could execute a simple box step.

It is an insult to the people of Sacramento and to the Music Circus that such material, untried (except for one previous "out of town") and untested should be foisted off on an audience that has learned, through the years, to place an implicit trust in both Mitzi and in Music Circus' producers. A comment of a fellow patron, "The only show worse than this was Connie Stevens'" should suffice.

I would ask Ms. Gaynor to fire her writers (a sketch built around J.R. Ewing of the TV-soap "Dallas" was not only in poor taste, it was embarrassingly crass) and to find a job for Charmoli teaching dancing to 1st graders. I would then ask Ms. Gaynor to remember her roots (those golden days of Hollywood) and to sit down and talk, chat and sing with her audience (these few moments in her present show were the only "true" ones) and re-establish a working rhythm with her customers—before they disappear entirely. Don't let 'em push you around, Mitzi.

"Nuff said.

The touring company of AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' which followed Mitzi was thankfully a delight of pure and total entertainment. Though troubled throughout by a sound engineer who evidently was not used to open-air acoustics, the energy, warmth and enthusiasm evinced for the inherent beauty of Fats Waller's music brought one of those too-few magical moments to Sacramento theatre. Most mentionable was David Cameron's The Viper's Drag—a full production done in icy-hued greens which revolves around that evil cigarette—the reefer. Cameron slid his way around the stage floor, menacingly singing of the dangers and pleasures of The Devil Weed until those people who had never even considered the stuff were begging for more.

Fats Waller's music is more than legend—it is our culture, be we Blue or Green. Honeysuckle Rose, T Ain't Nobody's Biz-ness If I Do, Mean To Me, and a wonderful Find Out What They Like (and let 'em have it just that way) place you smack dab in Harlem, circa 1900, and happy to be there. I could have stayed all night—and then some.

NO, NO NANETTE, a 1970's revival of an early 20s musical, just finished a wonderful run under



three performers with a minimum of props and virtually no scenery, Frederick has mastered the essence of a smoke-filled cabaret where "harmony again" is "a last encore". Musical director/composer Doug Trantham has devised an eminently smooth transitional flow from song to song, artfully arranging around and through the myriad demands of the many diverse periods and styles of Coward's music.

Touring a production of this minuscule size can, often, bring larger logistical problems than with those of full-scale musicals. Attempting to establish a technical mood with a modicum of available equipment can drive a lighting designer mad, so it is with much appreciation that we watched the lighting of Laurie Manarik, whose use of only nine lighting instruments greatly enhanced the intimacy that is Coward's trademark.

There have been many attempts to bring collections of Coward's songs, plays and sketches to the stage—few of them have been successful, for the difficulty of Coward is in its total simplicity. "Neither my lyrics nor my dialogue require decoration; all they do require are clarity, diction and intention and the minimum of gesture and business". And this clarity, diction, intention and minimum of business have been achieved by *Coward In A Cardboard Cup* with finesse and elan.

This revue of Noel Coward is possibly the most sensitively aware concept extant. Perhaps it is because it is a composite collective of the entire company. Perhaps it is because these six people instinctively know that Coward did, indeed, write for the people—a people he believed to be bored to tears (as he was) with pseudo-sophistication—a sophistication fraught with pitfalls for the poor unfortunate who might attempt to "take on" The Master. Perhaps Coward shows are packed with the idle rich because Coward himself found pretension so terribly amusing and because he wished to bring his audiences a world of proper, improper perspective. Perhaps...it just is...that this marvelous party of a production will play in San Francisco at Chez Jacques through the month of August.

All-Male Revival of *Mame* Starring Faye

For his final theatrical venture, Richard Faye — known for the last 15 years as "Faye" — has come out of semi-retirement to star in the Michael Robert revival of the celebrated musical comedy *Mame*. Faye last did *Mame* in 1972 for the then flourishing City Players production.

Faye was widely acclaimed in the late 60s and early 70s as one of San Francisco's most talented performers on the all-male theater circuit. Faye starred in countless revues and book shows as well as being a perennial prize winner in the Halloween costume balls. In addition he was a favorite MC at numerous charity functions. Having made in his mind a clear distinction between all-male theater and female impersonation, Faye had no urge to headline clubs like Finocchios.

With the demise of all-male theater in the mid 70s and the death of glamorous drag, Faye had all but hung up his beaded bag. On learning that *Mame* was being revived with considerable backing, Faye agreed to give *Mame* one last whirl (it was always his favorite role). He has promised it will be his most stunning performance as well as his most memorable. The costumes by Pat Campano will be nothing short of sensational.

Mame will run weekends from August 9 through August 31 at the Japan Center Theatre, 1881 Post Street. For reservations or group sales phone 864-5488.

the canvas. Starring Tom Poston, Dody Goodman and, best of all, Kathleen Freeman, this production literally sparkled with oldies but goodies. The play revolves around the slimmest excuse for a libretto, but packed with songs like I Want To Be Happy (a running gag throughout), Tea For Two, and Too Many Rings Around Rosie, the audience and actors were welded into one of those oft-sought-for moments which comprise a perfect night of theatre.

As unlikely as it may at first appear, Tom Poston's portrayal of a Bible salesman turned millionaire "innocently" supporting three "nice" girls under the "trusting" eye of his dotty wife works. Realizing the hokiness of the script, Poston plays it more teeth in cheek than tongue, and plays it well. Dody Goodman provides an even, though not particularly strong, foil as his wife—but it was, as it usually is, to Kathleen Freeman that the audience gave their hearts...and their housekeys...and their first born.

Ms. Freeman is one of the few comedienne who can turn a small part into the focal point of a production and her closing tap number was played to the hilt. She came just short of being mobbed and one wishes that musical director Joseph Klein had had enough foresight to initiate a few more bars and create the encore the crowd was screaming for. Kathleen is a consummate performer—never upstaging, always giving her fellow actors their due—but bringing such warmth and genuine good-heartedness to a theatre that one is blinded to other cast members. I hope she lives forever for she brings such pure and unmitigated joy.

There are two giant dance numbers in *NANETTE*, I Want To Be Happy and Tea For Two—and both were a sad disappointment. When first staged at Circus in 1974, the ensemble worked, literally, for two months to perfect the intricate steps—even those chorus members who were hired primarily as singer-dancers danced. By show time, the entire cast could execute those amazing feats of terpsichore which serve as this production's calling card. While 1980's chorus gave its all, choreographer Daryl Gray failed miserably using too much Charleston and too many time steps combined with an unending series of trenches which left one exhausted by repetitiveness rather than elated with enthusiasm. It was, frankly, boring, and I hope he finds more to work from within himself that he showed in *NANETTE*.

We did, however, whistle, coming home from the theatre for *NANETTE* is arguably one of the most complete type of good-time musicals recently staged. Overall, this is the type of entertainment that Music Circus presents best—and we can only wish that Lewis and Young will continue to foster that deep love of true musical comedy entertainment that is so completely ingrained into the American heritage.

Strongly recommended in the coming month: Kiss Me, Kate—starring Patrice Munsel and John Reardon. A show built within the framework of a production of *Taming of the Shrew*, it boasts one of the most beautiful scores written for the American stage by...Cole Porter. (The battle scenes between Kate and spouse alone make it a must-see.) Brigadoon promises a 5-hankie rating and we welcome back with much love JoAnne Worley in Once Upon A Mattress. All in all, a very strong and promising season for Music Circus.

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Get the Word Out

SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS EARLY

AUGUST

1,2,3,8,9,10,15,16,17—“The Wake - A Musical Tribute to Bert Williams”
 L.O. Sloan's Three Black and Three White Refined Jubilee Min-Strels unmask the myths of the minstrel show. Old Eagle Theatre, 925 The Embarcadero, Sacramento Friday and Saturday 8:30 pm, Sunday Matinee 3 pm. \$5 general, \$6 balcony.

1-3—Reno Gay Rodeo

2 Sat—Montara Chamber Players piano chamber music concert, American Victorian Museum, Nevada City, 8 pm. 265-5804 or 265-2644.

3 Sun—Metropolitan Community Church services, Rev. Freda Smith preaches at 11 am and 7:15 pm. Picnic following the morning service.

3 Sun—May Day Books Picnic. Smorgasbord picnic, \$3 adults, \$1 children. Softball game and volleyball, McKinley Park, 10 am - 6 pm.

3 Sun—Steps...Art works by Sally Sapunar and Tim Pfaff featuring textiles, prints, drawings, enamels, paintings and masks. Earhart's Cafe, 1905 16th St., 7-9 pm. Also Aug 4-29, 9:30 am - 3 pm. 446-0226; or 383-1211 after 6 pm.

5 Tues—Our River City Family Coordinating Committee meeting, 7:30. Call Paul, 453-8945 for location.

6 Wed—T Shirt Auction, fund raiser for Sacramento Stars softball team. Mercantile Saloon, 8 pm.

8 Fri—Thouvenal Strong Quartet performs works by Beethoven, Krenek and Ravel, Main Theater, UC Davis, 8:15 pm, \$4, Students \$3. 752-2523.

Organizations &

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- **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**
North Hall Gay Group MCC, 2741 34th St. M, W, F, 8 pm. Women Only, W, 6 pm;
Men's Stag, F, 6 p.m., 443-8138.
- **AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION/Sac. CHAPTER**
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meets every 3rd Wed., at 7:30 pm at the
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- **ARC GAY PEOPLES UNION**
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- **DIGNITY**
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- **GAY PEOPLE'S UNION**
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- **GAY ROLLER SKATING**
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- **GEORGE SAND COMM. BENEFIT FUND**
Box 1392 N, Highlands 95617 p.m., Del Prado Restaurant
- **G.N.I.E.**
Box 15731, Sac. 95813 First
- **HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**
1401 - 21 St. #203 Sac. 95814 Fourth Wed., 7 p.m., City Hall
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THE DEADLINE FOR CALENDAR ITEMS IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH BEFORE THE DATE OF ISSUE. PLAN AHEAD AND SEND US CALENDAR ITEMS TWO MONTHS EARLY SO THAT ALL OUR READERS WILL BE INFORMED OF YOUR EVENT. OUR BULK MAILING PERMIT SOMETIMES DOES NOT GET MGW TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS EARLY IN THE MONTH AND THEY MISS LEARNING ABOUT IMPORTANT DATES.

14 Thurs—N.O.W. Work Party. Grass roots support for E.R.A. Women's Center, 2104 Capital Ave., 5:30-7:30 pm. Refreshments! 455-5203 (day) or 457-5855 (night)

15 Fri—Sacto Stars Softball Party, fund-raiser includes drawing for free trip to Vancouver. Chaps, 8 pm.

15-17—1980 Women's Art Festival. Arts & Crafts Bldg., Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 10 am-9 pm.

16 Sat—Our River City Family Raft Trip. Raft to Goethe Park and return via shuttle bus. Bring food and drink. Meet at American River Raft Rentals on Sunrise Blvd., 11 am. Cost determinate on number of participants. Make reservations by Aug 13 with Paul, 453-8946.

16 Sat—Theatre Rhinoceros Playreading. "Maneuvers," a back room comedy by Ross H. Jones at 3 pm, in the Goodman Bldg., 1115 Geary St., San Francisco. \$1, (415) 776-1848.

16 Sat—Wine and Cheese Social at Earhart's Cafe, 5-8 pm. Sponsored by Advocates for Gay and Lesbian State Employees. 445-2174, 455-1515 or 421-5950.

17 Sun—Metropolitan Community Church services, Jerry Sloan preaches at 11 am, Shirley Rowland preaches at 7:15.

17 Sun—Team All Male Review, fund-raiser for softball team trip to Vancouver. Chaps, 9 pm

19-20—California Human Rights Advocates Semianual Statewide meeting in San Diego.

20 Wed—Peter Sellers and Friends Film Series. "A Shot in the Dark", Kleiber Hall, UC Davis, 7 & 9:30 pm, \$1.50, Students \$1. 752-2523.

20 Wed—"You Are Going to Vancouver Party" for Sacto Stars softball team, Chaps or Mercantile (TBA). \$1 donation.

23 Sat—Ethnic Lesbian and Gay Support Group meeting. Call Pamela, 332-9385, or Terry, 443-6527 (ONLY after 5 pm).

23 Sat—Our River City Family Potluck/ Picnic. Bring something to eat, drink, and share. Games provided. Portal Park, 2-7:30 pm. Follow 52nd St. north of Folsom Blv., 11 am-7:30 pm.

23 Sat—Weekend in the Country at Fife's Resort, Russian River. Sun, swim and relax with business people from all over California. (707) 869-0656, or write Fife's, P.O. Box 45, Guerneville, CA 95446. Sponsored by Golden Gate Business Assn., S.F. and The Business and Professional Assn., L.A.

23 Sat—Gays Under 21 Potluck. 1st Anniversary Party. 447-1171.

24 Sun—Jog-Walk-Bike-A-Thon for Equality. Register for 12 mile event at 8 am, race starts at 8:30. Meet in parking lot of California State Library, 9th and Capital. Prizes and free refreshments for participants. 443-3470.

24 Sun—Metropolitan Community Church guest speaker, Rev. Bob Cunningham, from MCC Concord. John Stewart sings and preaches at 7:15 pm.

27 Wed—Peter Sellers and Friends Film Series. "What's New, Pussy-cat", Kleiber Hall, UC Davis, 7 & 9:30 pm, \$1.50, Students \$1. 752-2523.

28 Thurs—N.O.W. Work Party. Grass roots support for E.R.A. Women's Center, 2104 Capital Ave., 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Refreshments! 455-5203 (day) or 457-5855 (night)

31 Sun—Metropolitan Community Church services, Jerry Sloan preaches at 11 am. Greg Renouf preaches at 7:15 pm.

31 Sun—Sunday in the Sun with the Sacto Symphony. Outdoor pops concert features Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" and other light classics. Golden Bear Bowl, Cal Expo, 4:30 and 7:30 pm. \$3 general admission, under 10 free. 488-0800.

SEPTEMBER

5-7—First Annual West Coast Women's Music and Cultural Festival, Mendocino Woodlands Campground, Concerts, workshops and food! Bring your own tent, \$40; cabin bed, \$50; deluxe cabin, \$60. Register early! (415) 641-4892.

7 Sun—Metropolitan Community Church services with Rev. Freda Smith at 11 am and 7:15 pm.

11 Thurs—River City Business Association General Meeting, Guest Speaker: Frank Treadway, campaign manager for Don Huggins, 1st District Assembly Candidate, Delta Queen Restaurant, 7:30 pm.

11 Thurs—N.O.W. Work Party. Grass roots support for E.R.A. Women's Center, 2104 Capital Ave., 5:30-7:30 pm. Refreshments! 455-5203 (day) or 457-5855 (night)

14 Sun—Metropolitan Community Church Round Up Sunday. Rev. Freda Smith preaches at 11 am and 7:15 pm.

25 Thurs—N.O.W. Work Party. Grass roots support for E.R.A. Women's Center, 2104 Capital Ave., 5:30-7:30 pm. Refreshments! 455-5203 (day) or 457-5855 (night)

OCTOBER

10 Fri—Metropolitan Community Church 9th Anniversary, Special Cantata "Celebration of Hope", by MCC Choir, 7:30 pm.

11 Sat—MCC Anniversary Dinner at Red Lion Inn, Special Guest, Rev. Troy Perry, Advance Tickets \$15.

12 Sun—Metropolitan Community Church services, guest speaker Rev. Troy Perry at 11 am and 7:15 pm. Sacramento Gay Chorus sings at 7:15 pm.

30 Thurs—Halloween Roller Skating Party Benefit by Bob Solomon for Mom... Guess What! newspaper. Prizes for best costumes. Roller Odyssey, El Camino & Fair Oaks Blvd., 8 pm.

31 Fri—Halloween Party for Women over 30 (tentative date).

NOVEMBER

13 Thurs—River City Business Association General Meeting. Speaker TBA.

15 Sat—Mom... Guess What! 2nd Anniversary Party. The Victorian, 917 H St.

DECEMBER

11 Thurs—River City Business Association General Meeting (Christmas party). Location TBA.

20 Sat—Snow White Champagne Ball for women. The Victorian. H St. & 9th St. Sacramento. Hors d'oeuvres, music, dancing, champagne, 8 pm. \$15.

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